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KENT ON SUNDAY

Published by KOS MEDIA LTD Telephone: (01303) 817000 IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT No.394 April 11, 2010 On sale 90p

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LET THE BATTLE BEGIN

WHILE the country gears up for one of the tightest political battles of this generation, Kent gets ready for the key fights which could determine who ends up in Downing Street.

As a critical area with its six marginal seats, Kent is being known as one of the main battlefields of the general election. And to highlight this, Prime Minister Gordon Brown travelled straight to the county after his meeting with The Queen and subsequent announcement that Parliament is to be dissolved.

Meeting members of the public, he stressed that Kent's economic recovery must not be put at risk.

Leader of the opposition David Cameron also spoke of the importance of the county in the election, with two visits already this year. With a minority of the county's MPs being Labour some Tories are confident they will keep a stronghold.

By **MARIJKE COX**

But Derek Wyatt, Labour MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, believes his party will be victorious and win all of the county's seats in a landslide similar to that of 1997's election when Tony Blair took over as Prime Minister.

"We know the marginal seats here are closer than anywhere," said Mr Wyatt. "But I think Labour will pull through. What people want is security. They want to know their mortgage isn't going to go up and if they are in financial trouble there is help.

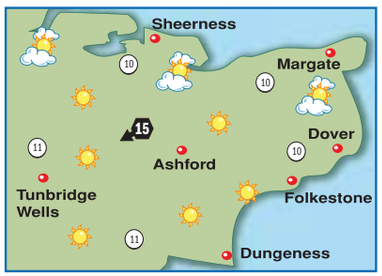
"The Tories are going for the short, sharp shock, but Labour is using a more subtle and sustainable approach."

• ***Turn to pages 8 and 9 for the full story.***



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Kent today



TODAY: It will be another fine day with little in the way of cloud around and mostly clear blue skies and plenty of sunshine. Cooler in the breeze. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). **TONIGHT:** It looks set to be dry with few, if any, clouds and mostly clear, starry skies. Breezy. Min temp 4-7C (39-45F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	12	54	London	fair	14	57
Belfast	sun	16	61	Liverpool	sun	14	57
Birmingham	fair	13	55	Manchester	fair	14	57
B'mouth	fair	14	57	Newcastle	sun	12	54
Bristol	sun	11	52	Norwich	sun	11	52
Cardiff	sun	14	57	Oxford	sun	13	55
Cork	fair	14	57	Southsea	fair	14	57
Edinburgh	fair	15	59	S'hampton	fair	13	55
Glasgow	sun	16	61	Southport	sun	14	57
Isle of Man	sun	12	54	Swansea	sun	13	55
Leeds	fair	12	54	Torquay	sun	13	55

Sun & moon

Sunrise	6.08am	Sunset	7.45pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	4.43am	Moonset	4.46pm	7.45pm to 6.06am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	10.24	5.8	22.34	6.0	10.57	6.0	23.07	6.2
Margate	11.23	4.2	23.30	4.3	–	–	12.00	4.3
St Mary's	03.45	4.9	16.08	4.8	04.23	5.1	16.42	5.1

Week ahead

monday Rather cloudy. max 13C min2C

tuesday Clouding over. max 13C min 4C

wednesday Dry with sun. max 13C min 4C

thursday Sunny and dry. max 16C min 4C

friday Dry and fine. max 16C min 4C

saturday Showers. max 16C min 4C

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Printed by Archant Print. Early edition free, late edition 60p.

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Tories confirm plan to cut development agency

TORY plans to scrap regional development agencies have sparked fresh uproar as the general election campaigns heat up, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Conservative leader David Cameron stressed again last week that he would be looking to make spending cuts by getting rid of some Government-funded organisations if his party was to win next month.

He pledged to return responsibility to local government bodies, which could potentially save billions.

But this would mean organisations such as the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), which supports economic development in the region, could be scrapped.

In a speech earlier this year, Mr Cameron revealed plans to focus spending cutbacks on quangos (quasi-autonomous non-governmental organisations).

He said: "We're going to say to those spatial strategies, those transport plans, those assemblies, most of the regional development agencies, those regional targets – the whole lot is going."

And he repeated his proposals again last week, stating that should a Conservative Government get into Downing Street, the "regional stuff" would be changed.

He admitted, however, that even scrapping quangos may not fill the hole left by Tory spending proposals, which Labour claims is about £22bn.

Mr Cameron's plans have been compared to that of Margaret Thatcher, who was accused by Labour of destroying jobs and industry in the late 80s.

A Seeda spokesman said the agency was unable to comment due to the announcement of a general election by Gordon Brown and subsequent purdah rules.

Income

But following Mr Cameron's initial talks of scrapping RDAs, the organisation highlighted its importance to Kent by revealing that Seeda delivered an average of £5.60 for every pound spent between 2002 and 2007.

"With Seeda support, Kent has received significant investment in regeneration and job creation," the spokesman said.

"Seeda has helped Kent make the case for becoming a regional priority, attracting more investment than the area would have received if investment decisions were based on population or an equal allocation across local authority areas."

SEEDA

Jonathan Shaw, minister for the south east, also hit out at Mr Cameron's proposals.

He said: "Seeda has brought £85m to Kent to support the Thames Gateway project, providing new jobs and housing.

"The strategic investment decision and support for local businesses taken by Seeda are vital for our region's economic recovery."

His comments were echoed by Lord Peter Mandelson who compared Mr Cameron's views to that of Margaret Thatcher.

He added: "While David Cameron is looking down his nose at the regions, he is talking about people's jobs, he is talking about people's living standards and he is talking about their kids' futures.

"Now he may not regard these people in the regions as worthy of government support, but our view is that they should not be forced to do without it, not if we want to create a balanced economy in this country and if we want everyone to have the chance to share in the proceeds of growth."

New homes are urgently needed

HOUSING officials have raised concerns about the lack of affordable homes being built in the region.

A report published by the National Housing Federation revealed that a Government target outlining the need for 32,700 new houses during 2008/09 in the South East was missed by 15 per cent.

Labour MP Stephen Ladyman, chairman of the South East Committee and MP for South Thanet, said the region must be prepared to aim higher than Government targets.

"We also have to do better at increasing the proportion of affordable housing," he said. "If we don't, business investment will be lost to the UK and the South East will become a place only the rich can afford to live."

Between 2002 and 2009, just over 210,000 homes were outlined for the region but only 186,290 were built.

Warren Finney, regional manager for the National Housing Federation, said although the South East came close to meeting its target in 2008/09, the figures showed a shortfall of homes being built over the six-year period.

"The end result is thousands of households coping with poor and unsuitable housing," he said. "Even during the boom years it's now clear too few affordable houses were being built and now we're left with that legacy.

"Urgent action is required to get house-building back on track in the South East."



BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: If more new affordable homes are not built soon then Kent will only be a place for the rich, warns Thanet MP Stephen Ladyman, inset



It's not a late April Fool as EU officials reveal plans for atlas

We're part of France and the English Channel's the Anglo-French Pond... oh, and we have to pay for it

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

SEPARATED by just 21 miles of water but steadfast in their cultural identities, France and England have lived peacefully as two separate entities for years.

But things could be about to change after documents uncovered by EU officials this week revealed how some would like to see the English Channel renamed the "Anglo-French Pond".

The controversial plan was drawn up as part of the Espace Manche Development Initiative (EMDI), led by the Arc Manche Assembly – a collaboration of councils on both sides of the Channel that looks to strengthen co-operation between the two countries.

Its key objective is to develop a new atlas joining Kent to northern France as part of the "Trans-Manche Zone", which has its own socialist president called Alain Le Vern, leader of the regional council of Haute-Normandie.

The project costs about £1.1 million – much of it coming from the British taxpayer – and the atlas would be distributed to schools and local authorities across the UK, including in Kent.

Mapmakers behind the scheme said: "The Channel has become a zone of multiple interacting and overlapping activities.

"It is a shared space, a small Anglo-French internal sea; the interplay of activities both on and around what has become known as the Anglo-French Pond."

Officials at EMDI added: "The English Channel is both the world's busiest maritime thoroughfare and the main gateway to Europe. It is likely to become busier as the traffic of goods and people between the UK and continent grows.



THE CHANNEL: Will this man soon be looking out over the Anglo-French Pond?

"The common problems generated by this vital artery strengthen the need for transnational co-operation, which will be tested by the EMDI project through pilot initiatives, including tourism, integrated coastal zones and higher education."

The new Trans-Manche Atlas will show England to be part of France, but opponents say it will wipe out the historical borders drawn up some 1,000 years ago by Roman geographer Ptolemy.

However, those behind the plans say it will promote "greater European integration", especially between Kent and Calais.

Daniel Hannan, Conservative MEP for the South East, said the real scandal was the amount of money spent on the initiative.

"It's not our identity we should be worried about," he said. "People who are from Kent will say they're from Kent, that won't change.

"This is about a group of people buying the identity of influential members of the EU and getting local authorities to buy into these projects. The TransManche Zone relies on the budget from Brussels, which we all pay for. The fact this budget keeps growing and is being used for a project like this is the real scandal."

Mr Hannan said if there was a specific use for the atlas, such as for shipping lanes, he would perhaps be more supportive.

Other critics of the initiative include the former UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who represents the party as another South East MEP.

"You couldn't make this up – most people would've thought this was an April Fool's joke," he said. "This new map shows the lunatics really have taken over the asylum."

A spokesman from the Department for Communities and Local Government said the Arc Manche is not an agency of the UK or French Governments.

"It has no legal status to make decisions regarding issues outside of its responsibilities," he added.

Princess banned thanks to Asbo

A CARNIVAL princess has been slapped with an Asbo after police got fed up with her rowdy behaviour.

Rachael Booker-Pook, 18, was selected to represent Sittingbourne Carnival Association late last month but is now banned from entering the town's Forum shopping centre.

Kent Police said they had received numerous complaints about the behaviour of Rachael and her friends from local business owners.

Murdered girls to be remembered

A MEMORIAL is planned to commemorate two teenage victims of serial killer Peter Tobin.

The bodies of Dinah McNicol, 18, and Vicky Hamilton, 15, were discovered by police in the garden of Tobin's former home in Margate, in November 2008.

A Thanet council spokeswoman said the authority was now in discussions with families of the two victims, who have suggested a memorial bench or tree placed somewhere in the town.

Tobin, 63, is serving a life sentence for their murders, as well as that of a third woman.

Seeds of festival

THE Lightning Seeds have been confirmed to appear alongside Madness at this summer's Sound Island Festival at Quex Park in Thanet.

The band are best known for their Euro 1996 football anthem Three Lions, a collaboration between lead singer Ian Broudie and comedians Frank Skinnner and David Baddiel.

Tickets for the festival, which runs over the weekend of July 24 and 25, are £33.50 for Saturday and £28.50 for Sunday.

Call 08712 200260 for more details.

Strike is a Stack too far as we pay for workers' protest

THOUSANDS of would-be holidaymakers were left stranded as workers from stricken ferry firm SeaFrance staged a walk-out.

Members of the French CFDT union took strike action over new working practices and possible cuts of 482 out of the 1,580 workforce.

The changes are part of a recovery plan to save the debt-ridden operator from bankruptcy, where £30 million was lost in 2009.

But the walk-out is thought to have cost the company more than £1m, with SeaFrance crossings cancelled for five days over one of the busiest periods of the year in ferry travel.

Many of Kent's roads were left gridlocked as Operation Stack was put in place to deal with the backlog of queuing freight.

And most passengers, although transferred to P&O Ferries, were faced with long waits at the Port of Dover.

Officials from French company SeaFrance apologised "profusely" for the disruption.



COST: MEP Catherine Bearder has spoken out against the cost of French strikes

The French government has now come under fire for failing to take responsibility for the disruption caused to the county.

Catherine Bearder, Liberal Democrat MEP for the South East, said Operation Stack has cost Kent Police nearly £5m since 2005.

"The people of Kent are being made to foot the bill for a dispute they have nothing to do with," she said.

"If the costs are not wholly absorbed by SeaFrance, the French Government should have the integrity to cover the rest rather than passing the buck across the Channel."

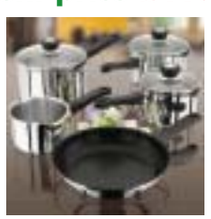
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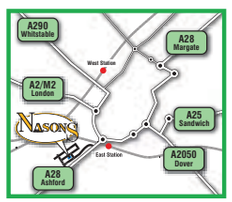
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Expenses silence is 'a mockery of democracy'

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

COUNTY Hall's ruling Tory administration has shot down Lib Dem accusations that it is opposed to transparency over its accounts.

At a meeting of the full council last week, the Lib Dems said they wanted to immediately discuss ways of publishing details of every expense over £1,000, but that the motion was blocked.

Their finance spokesman Cllr Tim Prater said the Tories ran out of time and refused to grant an extension to the meeting, despite taking a 90-minute lunch break.

However, his Tory counterpart Cllr John Simmonds – cabinet member for finance – said the reason was not to stifle open debate but that it was just not the right time or place.

Cllr Simmonds said: "I have no problem with being open with the public, but this will come with a massive logistical problem.

"We have about 6,100 individual payments of over £1,000 every week. That is a huge amount of information to be published.

"Again, I have no problem with that, but we need to sort out just how it is to be published, and in what sort of detail.

"We need to be sure this offers value for money. It would be completely pointless publishing 24,000 payments a month if no one anywhere is going to read it or act on it.

Lib Dems challenge Tories over lack of council transparency

"I am totally behind being open with this sort of information, providing it is not commercially sensitive or breaches confidentiality."

Despite Cllr Simmonds' response, Cllr Prater said there was no reason KCC could not follow in the footsteps of other councils that had already implemented the transparency scheme.

'Farce'

He added: "The publication of council expenditure has already been put in place by Windsor and Maidenhead and the Greater London Authority. It has been agreed for next year by councils including the Wirral, Bedford unitary and Northamptonshire County Council – whose chief executive Katherine Kerswell is joining Kent as its new group managing director.

"It's a farce, tragedy and disgrace of which they (KCC) should be ashamed."

Last week it was revealed that in 2008/09, KCC paid more senior officers in excess of £100,000 per year than any other local authority in the country.

The council also came under fire for refusing to identify those who fell into that category, despite the Information Commissioner's Office recommending it did so.

Speaking of the failed attempt to discuss transparency, Lib Dem leader Cllr Trudy Dean said: "We hear so much from the Conservatives about being open and transparent, and here when they have a real opportunity to allow the public to see how we spend their money, most of the Conservatives vote against even discussing it. This was an absolute mockery of democracy."

In response, Cllr Simmonds said the council needed to balance the "need to know" with the cost and usefulness of the information.

He added: "I have already asked for ways of getting this information published, but if we do it on paper, that is an awful lot of printing. And not everyone has web access."

Meanwhile, the Lib Dems say they have triggered an investigation into how KCC pays its top officers compared with other councils.

The group said it has continually questioned senior staff pay packages.

Cllr Dean said: "Payment of up to 15 per cent bonuses to senior managers is not acceptable to taxpayers who themselves are getting low or no pay rises.

"Performance related pay can be a good tool, but it is notoriously difficult and needs to be fair across the whole authority."



Picture: DIRK BEHLAU WWW.PIXELEYE.DE

The Scary Guy comes in peace

DESPITE having a face that would terrify young children, The Scary Guy's visit to Kent this week was to help spread his message of love.

Born Earl Kenneth Kaufmann, the anti-bullying and violence campaigner legally changed his name in 1998 and uses his heavily-tattooed appearance to draw attention to his goal of world peace.

On Easter Monday it was Gillingham's turn to heed the words of The Scary Guy, who was invited to the town by world explorer George Meegan.

Mr Meegan, who made history when he completed the first unbroken walk from the southern tip of South America to the northernmost part of Alaska, also used the event to announce his standing as an independent in the forthcoming general election.

He said: "This startling visitor came to Gillingham with the best message anyone can ever carry.

Message

"He is one of the most extraordinary men I have ever met and is almost alone in being able to reach children prone to violence or who are isolated and alone. For them he is a hero. He also increasingly has the ear of the leaders of our land."

Scary delivered his speech near the Naval memorial at The Lines, Gillingham.

Mr Meegan said: "Schools were on holiday, so I invited Scary so local people and youngsters could listen to his message and understand that violence is pointless."

A former tattoo artist, The Scary Guy bills himself as a motivational speaker who campaigns worldwide to eliminate hate, violence, prejudice and bullying in schools and corporations.

The 20-stone American said his message was straightforward in that he wants young people to put prejudice and intolerance aside and show love and acceptance to each other.

He said: "It is a four-stage process. First we make them aware what prejudice and perception is. We let them understand why it happens. We then show how to turn it around into acceptance and love. The whole programme is geared to changing this earth.

"This is a worldwide problem and by teaching them love and not to judge others, we are changing the way they perceive others. This stops prejudice.

"I believe everybody has a bully in them. There is no such thing as bad kids, there is bad behaviour."

Stars line up to play at festival

N-DUBZ, Bananarama and East 17 will all be performing at the Weekend at Willow music festival in Faversham.

Chesney Hawkes, Wiley and former Atomic Kitten star Liz McClarnon will also take to the stage at the two-day event on the weekend of May 29, at Willow Farm.

A fun fair, fancy dress stall, theme bars and refreshments will also be available at the festival, which will feature a wide range of different musical styles.

See www.weekendatwillow.co.uk for details.

Pedestrian hurt

POLICE are appealing for help in tracing the rider of a silver moped after an accident in which a man was seriously injured.

The 23-year-old spent weeks in hospital after the collision at about 9.20pm on Wednesday, February 24, outside Dame Janet school, Newington Road, Ramsgate.

The moped came up behind the pedestrian on the path, broke sharply and the rider came over the handlebars. The biker got up and rode off, but the pedestrian collapsed a short while afterwards.

Anyone with information should call police on 01622 690690, quoting reference 20100224-1683.

Old lady robbed

A TEENAGER robbed a 92-year-old woman of a "large amount of cash" in daylight.

The attack happened in Sandgate Road, Folkestone, after the victim drew the money out of the HSBC bank in the town centre, at about 12.15pm on Tuesday.

The teenager ran away into Manor Road.

Anyone with information should call Kent Police on 01622 690690.



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PANDORA
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Douglas ups the stakes for a good cause

NOT content with going the extra mile for his customers, Douglas Waddell also puts his best foot forward for charity.

As operations director for Hand Picked Hotels, which has its head office in Sevenoaks and two luxury hotels in the county, Waddell knows the value of keeping his clients happy.

But he also sets out to give value for money outside working hours and will be pushing himself to the limit in the name of charity later this month.

On April 24 he will begin a gruelling two-day challenge to raise money for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. Starting with a 2.5-mile swim at his local swimming pool, he will then cycle from Stratford-upon-Avon to London.

But that will not be the end of his ordeal – the following day, he will run the 26-mile London Marathon.

Value for money

"The London Marathon is a great event, but I've been raising money for the last few years and you have to keep giving people value for money and differentiating," he said.

"With my first one I raised £7,000 and last year I raised £10,000. The marathon is not enough. This year I thought, 'What else can I do?'. I've always wanted to do an Iron Man event, where you swim, then bike, then run."

Waddell, 45, is no stranger to putting in the miles because, although he is a familiar face in Sevenoaks and works in the town two or three days each week, he actually lives in Warwickshire and makes the long commute regularly. He is also a veteran runner and is always looking for ways to challenge himself.

"My wife would say that I'm always training for something," he said.

"I tend to run a couple of times a week and I love cycling, so I watch the Tour de France and I try to get out on my bike once a week.

"But the trouble this year has been the winter, because the snow has made it difficult to get out on the bike. This year I've also started swimming."

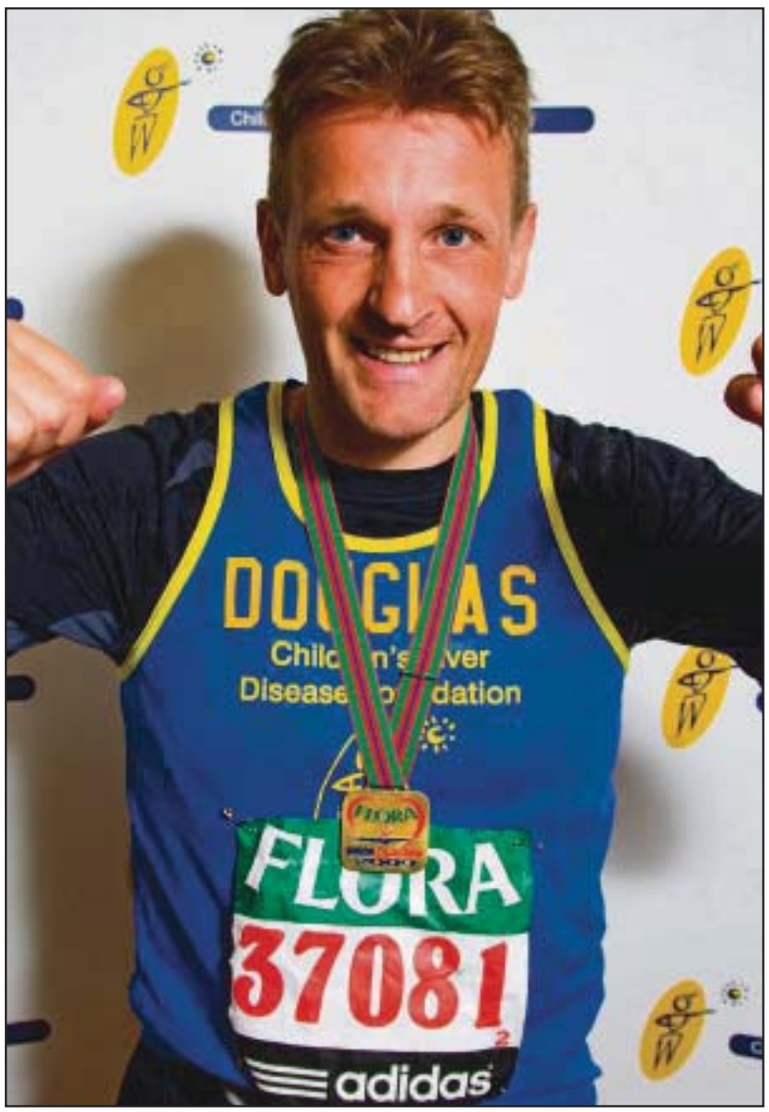
Waddell has run more than 30 marathons in the last 20 years, but it was when he joined Hand Picked four years ago that the Children's Liver Disease Foundation caught his attention.

A colleague's wife was chief executive of the charity, so he decided to raise money both for the cause and something even more crucial.

"My gift to them is to get as much publicity for the charity as possible; to talk to the press about the charity and the work they do," he said. "People are not aware that children's liver disease problems are more common than childhood leukaemia. Two people are affected by it every day.

"My objective is to keep doing the events and to raise awareness. If I can raise a few bob as well, that's great. It's frighteningly common and people need to know about it."

• If you would like to sponsor Douglas, visit http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/DouglasWaddell. Find out more about the Children's Liver Disease Foundation online at www.childliverdisease.org.



IRON MAN: Douglas is taking on a new physical challenge this year to raise awareness of the Children's Liver Disease Foundation as well as money for the worthwhile charity

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Clifftop war memorial stalled

By IAN READ
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Project in doubt over design and access concerns

A BOLD plan to build an iconic memorial to casualties of both World Wars in Dover is being held up by English Heritage.

Architect John Pegg wants to put up 12 three-metre high walls carrying the names of all those killed serving with British and Commonwealth armed forces in the conflicts.

He believes the memorial, which would overlook the harbour on the Western Heights, would attract visitors to the town and help with its regeneration.

Cash to build the structure would come from the National Lottery and regeneration funds, but English Heritage does not like the design or the proposed site because it feels access is too limited.

Mr Pegg said: "We hope to have the memorial in place for 2014 – the centenary of the start of World War One. It would have 1.7 million names on it and would be a fitting tribute.

"It would be a tragedy if this opportunity was lost. English Heritage has a mindset that's rooted in the past and not the possibilities of the future."

The backers believe the memorial would attract between 250,000 and 500,000 visitors a year, providing a financial boost to the port that is little more than a slight stop on the way to London.

Mr Pegg said: "It would attract people from around the world because it would also remember those from occupied countries like the Poles and the Free French who served with our forces."

To deal with access problems Mr Pegg believes a bridge to the Drop Redoubt site could be built and a small road constructed, while frail tourists would be driven to the memorial in golf buggies.

Town councillor Chris Precious says the imposing edifice would complement the memorial to those killed since 1945 in Staffordshire, and that the cliffs stand out as a "bulwark against oppression".

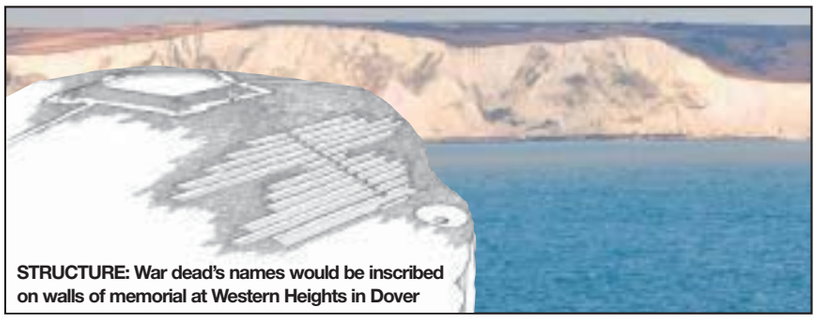
He added: "The Few from the Battle of Britain fought above them. Two thirds of those rescued from Dunkirk arrived here and for many soldiers heading for the battlefields of Flanders and the Somme it was the last sight of home they had."

The plan has backing from businesmen in the town and qualified support from Dover District Council.

Council leader Paul Watkins said: "We support the principle of building the memorial but it has to fit in with regeneration plans. If it can be planned properly then I don't see a problem with it."

A spokesman for English Heritage said: "English Heritage has given careful consideration to the proposal for a Commonwealth War Memorial on the Western Heights.

"From our initial research we do not believe the Western Heights is the best place for a memorial of this sort; and we feel there are some practical difficulties in terms of public accessibility."



STRUCTURE: War dead's names would be inscribed on walls of memorial at Western Heights in Dover

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GENERAL ELECTION MAY 6, 2010 Kent will become one of the crucial

Parties will tread fine line

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THE gloves are off and contenders ready as the battlefield opens for the key fight of the general election.

With six marginal seats – five Labour and one Tory – Kent has been dubbed the "corridor of uncertainty" and one of the crucial areas for May's long-awaited vote.

And Gordon Brown is only too aware of the importance of the county's voters, making a whistle-stop tour of Medway just hours after announcing the dissolution of Parliament, which formally takes place on Monday.

Speaking to KOS Media, the Prime Minister said the Labour Party is fighting for every vote.

"We will not be complacent. I believe we are on the road to recovery – Kent is on the road to recovery. We must not put that at risk," he said.

The last general election in May, 2005, saw five of Kent's Labour MPs retain their seats with majorities of less than 750 votes.

These were Howard Stoate (Dartford, majority 706), Stephen Ladyman (Thanet South, 664), Paul Clark (Gillingham and Rainham, 254), Bob Marshall-Andrews (Medway, 213) and Derek Wyatt (Sittingbourne and Sheppey, 79).

Tory MP Adam Holloway holds the other remaining marginal seat in Gravesham with a majority of 654.

This year's election will add even more pressure to the Labour party with three of its Kent MPs – Howard Stoate, Bob Marshall-Andrews and Derek Wyatt – stepping down at Westminster on Monday.

But Mr Wyatt is confident the party will be victorious, going so far as to say they will win every one of the county's 17 seats.

"We know the marginal seats here are closer than anywhere," he said.

"But I think Labour will pull through. What people want is security. The Tories are going for the short, sharp shock, but Labour is using a more sustainable approach."

Mr Wyatt argued a change of government is not sensible in the middle of a recovery, and claimed prospective Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne is a "threat".

He also stressed the need for compulsory voting, after recent research by AGE UK revealed electoral power lay in the hands of the over 55s, not the younger generations.

The findings showed this age group will hold the majority of votes in more than half the seats across the South East region.

While the Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP is confident of a Labour landslide, like that seen in 1997 when the party came into Government after 18 years of Tory rule, others are biding their time before bringing out the champagne.

Paul Clark, Labour MP for Gillingham and Rainham, said he is uncertain how it will go, but said his party will ensure economic recovery, in particular a drop in the number of house repossessions.

"At the end of the day, when people go into the ballot box they are voting for their local MP who represents their town and they have to decide who they want," he said.

He also launched an attack on his Tory rival Rehman Chishti, claiming Lord Michael Ashcroft was funding Gillingham and

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



GREETINGS: Gordon Brown with wife Sarah meets workers at the Aylesford Print Works

NICK AMES joined Gordon Brown as he made Medway his first stop on what will be an intriguing election campaign, and got local reaction to how the Prime Minister came across

PRIME Minister Gordon Brown made Medway the first stop of his election campaign after traveling on a high-speed train, fresh from calling on The Queen to dissolve Parliament.

After the date of May 6 was confirmed for the vote, he first met the public and mass media at the Morrisons store in Strood, near Rochester.

A scrum of camera crews and photographers had been waiting since the visit was announced at about 9.30am.

On a charm offensive with his wife Sarah, Mr Brown had obviously prioritised Kent as an important front in his battle to beat Conservative leader David Cameron.

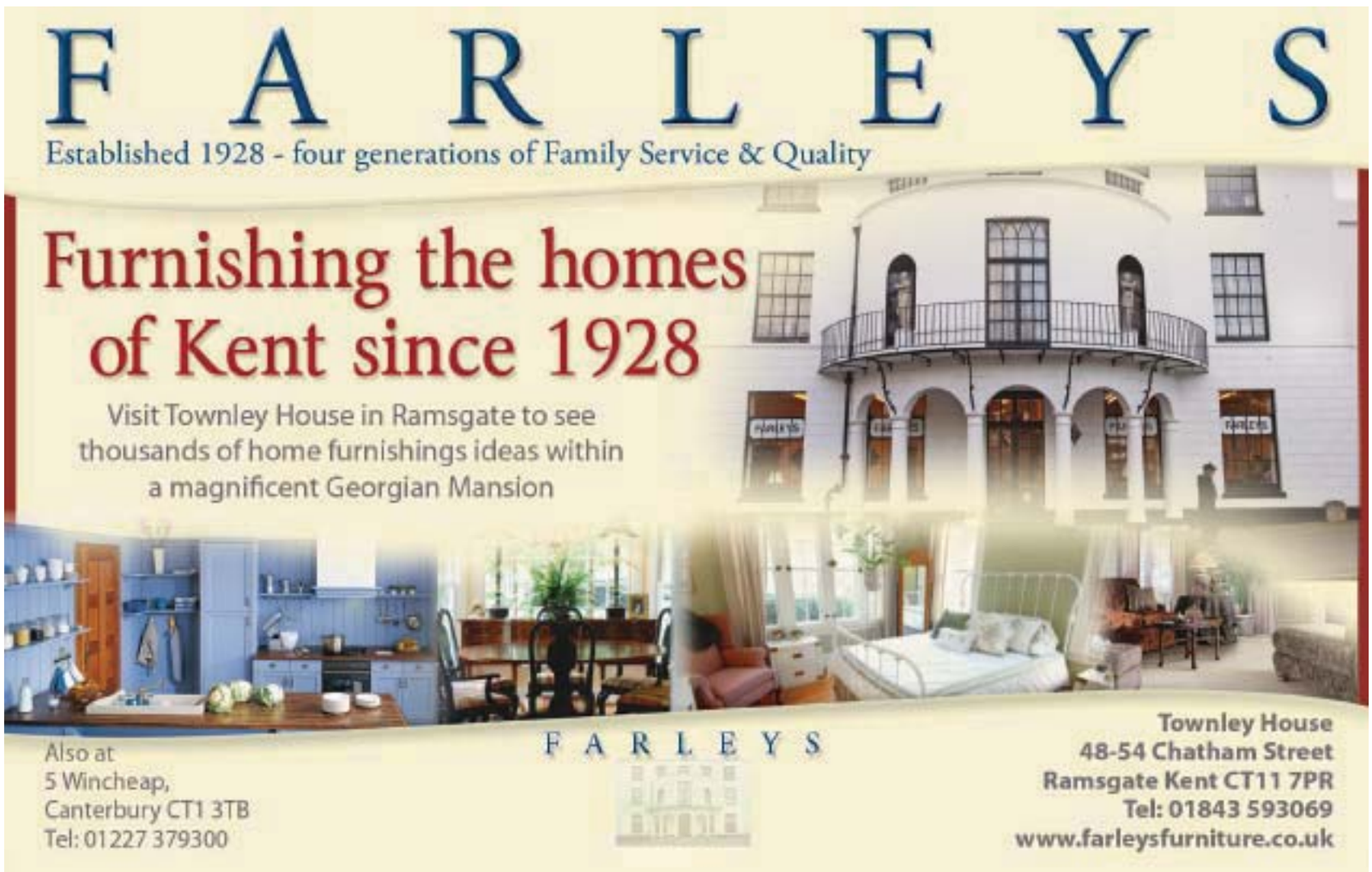
After arriving at the station of the ninth most vulnerable Labour seat in the country, a convoy dropped him off in front of superstore Morrisons.

Before he swept through the door amidst a throng of reporters and minders, the Prime Minister greeted a mass of onlookers, but steadfastly refused to answer questions from reporters over why he had chosen Medway as his first stop and his prospects in the battle for Number 10.

Bystanders said they were shocked, but honoured that Strood was the first place he visited.

Labour Party activist Noreen Chambers, 48, from Hoo St Werburgh, had just popped into the store to buy some bread and milk after leafleting the area.

She said: "I couldn't believe it when I heard the Prime Minister was coming to the store. I only came here for a shop, but I saw all the



areas on May 6 and with six marginal seats the fight is on for every available vote

in 'corridor of uncertainty'

cameras and managed to shake his hand.

"I said thank you for all you have done for the country as well. This is a feather in our cap. It's amazing."

The first person Mr Brown spoke to in the store was Mrs Chambers' 10-year-old grandson Elijah.

The youngster said: "He asked me if I was on holiday and I told him yes. He asked me what my favourite subject was and I said science."

After the scrum in the store, at 1.30pm, Brown moved into the Morrison's staff canteen where he asked workers if they had enjoyed Easter and spoke about the importance of a steady job.

Rochester and Strood candidate for Labour Teresa Murray, who hopes to take over the position held by outgoing maverick MP Bob Marshall-Andrews, accompanied the PM.

"We have a very proud record in this area regarding regeneration," she said.

"The fact the Prime Minister took a high-speed train here shows how the area has moved on.

Outside staff had laid on sandwiches and bottled water for spectators.

"I wish he'd come everyday – it's a free lunch," joked Rochester resident Maddie Harris, who had come to do her shopping.

The Prime Minister then headed to Aylesford Print Works which is in the constituency of Labour's Jonathan Shaw, who has a 2,332 majority. After a tour of the plant he met workers in the restaurant.

He spoke to them about the opportunities on offer in their work and what form of transport they used to get into their jobs each day.

"How do you like it here?" asked Mr Brown, receiving a very favourable response.

Liz Wood, company human resources administrator, said: "It was very exciting to have the PM here on the day the election was announced. Quite a surprise for all of us too, but we are a large local employer."

Rainham Conservative's election campaign.

"Direct payments have been made into Gillingham Conservative Association accounts by Lord Ashcroft's company Bearwood Corporate Services Ltd, to the tune of £15,941.56 in recent years," he said.

"My concern is that his non-domicile status means he doesn't even pay tax in this country and yet he's seeking to influence election results."

Also gearing up for a fight is Tory MP for Gravesham Adam Holloway.

"I don't like to say who I think will win, but the Kent seats are critical," he said.

"I think we need to address the major issues such as education and the NHS, plus help those people who are struggling with mortgages and second mortgages."

Tory parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald, Helen Grant, echoed Mr Holloway's views, adding that a Tory government would restore public trust and confidence.

"All the indications show the Conservatives to be the only party that can overtake Labour and give us a change in government," she said.

"A change that so many local people have told me they want and need."

Prosser the target of 'tally-ho' Tories in hunt for port's seat

HUNT masters are rallying the troops in a bid for Tory victory after David Cameron pledged to hold a free vote on foxhunting if he gets into Downing Street.

Officials at hunting clubs have been calling on their members to help in the Conservative campaign and are urging supporters to do everything in their power to bring in a Tory government.

Mr Cameron hinted at a return of hunting with dogs – banned in February, 2005 – if he was to come into power, stating MPs would get a free vote on the issue, based on their personal view, not the official party line.

The East Kent Hunt, which stretches from Canterbury around to Folkestone and Dover, is urging its supporters to help Conservative Parliamentary Candidate Charlie Elphicke unseat Dover and Deal Labour MP Gwyn Prosser, who voted for the ban in 2004.

James Stretton, honorary secretary at the club, said although this support may only give an extra 100 votes to Mr Elphicke, every one of those counts.

"At the end of the day a hunt is like any other organisation," he said.

"It is better in the interest of any hunt to have the Tories brought in over Labour at the general election."

Mr Stretton said the club had been approached by the Conservative party to help with leaflet drops and volunteers had been helping with the campaign.

Currently, clubs around the UK hunt 'within the law'. This involves trail hunts, where hounds follow a trail laid with a rag covered in fox scent. Before the ban was brought in fox-hunting involved the tracking, chasing and often killing of a fox.

Charlie Elphicke said he was pleased to have been offered support by the East Kent Hunt.

"I'm delighted to have support from wherever it comes," he said. "But this is not about unseating Mr Prosser, but about making positive differences in the area."

However, Mr Prosser said the Conservatives were obsessed with past and old traditions.

He added: "I really welcome the East Kent Hunt riding into Dover in their red coats shouting 'tally-ho' as it will remind people the Tory party is the same old Tory party. They are not looking to the future, but at the past.

"They want to see a change in the law that will allow dogs to tear and rip foxes apart."

Animal rights protestors have also vowed to fight against any repeal, claiming 75 per cent of the public support the hunting ban.

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Port excursion for UKIP leader

THE leader of the UK Independence Party will be visiting Kent this week to meet with fellow party candidates in the county.

Lord Pearson of Rannoch will be in Dover between 11.30am and 1pm on Thursday, when he will also address his concerns about the possible sale of the port.

The UKIP leader will meet local business leaders and the headteacher of Dover College before taking a boat trip around the port.

'Brothel' arrests

POLICE arrested two women after the discovery of a suspected brothel in Folkestone.

A search warrant was executed at a home in Victoria Grove on March 30, under the Misuse of Drugs Act, but officers found evidence the property was being used for sexual purposes.

The women, aged 50 and 34, were arrested on suspicion of managing or assisting in the management of a brothel, and have been released on bail pending further inquiries.

An expensive text

A MAN forgot to delete his former partner's number from his mobile telephone and ended up in front of magistrates.

Graham Godfrey, 51, of Athlestan Road, Margate, accidentally sent a blank text to his partner of 17 years, Glynis Bromley, after an acrimonious split. But by doing so he contravened a county court order telling him not to contact his ex, and admitted breaking it when he appeared before town magistrates.

Godfrey was given a conditional discharge for a year and ordered to pay £85 costs.

Conservatives respond to upper chamber 'silly business'

Anti-Lords campaign targets retiring MPs

By **ANNA WHITE** and **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TWO retiring Tory MPs have given mixed reactions to a campaign aiming to keep them out of the House of Lords.

Maidstone and Weald's Ann Widdecombe has branded the Power2010 group's project as "silly business", while former party leader Michael Howard (Folkestone and Hythe) says he is sympathetic to its goal.

The campaign is targeting the two veterans because both are rumoured to be in line for seats in the Lords under the peerage system, which Power2010 say is undemocratic because it is decided by party leaders rather than voters.

Ms Widdecombe said: "I really don't know why they are picking on me. I find it quite embarrassing. This is just silly business and they obviously don't know what they are talking about.

"There hasn't even been an indication that I will be asked.

"That is absolutely entirely up to David Cameron, but if I was invited I would say yes. It's perfectly democratic to have lords. What is the point in letting experience go to waste?"



ANN WIDDECOMBE: 'Embarrassing'



MICHAEL HOWARD: 'No offer of seat'

In a few weeks the party leaders will announce a list of names to be appointed to the House of Lords, and Power2010 says Mr Howard and Ms Widdecombe are expected to be included alongside other ex-MPs and former ministers.

The group is calling on an immediate freeze on all appointments to the Lords in favour of a fully-elected second chamber, with no hereditary peers, no appointed peers and no bishops.

It claims the House of Lords, and its system of appointments, is one of the principal sources of corruption in British politics.

Director Pam Giddy said: "It is 2010 and we still have a Parliament in which the upper chamber is made up of appointed cronies, aristocrats who have inherited the right to rule, and 26 bishops who sit in Parliament by right.

"It simply isn't credible for the parties to talk about cleaning up politics while continuing to appoint new lords, many of whom will expect to live out their retirement in the chamber at taxpayers' expense while blocking any kind of reform.

"There should be no place for lords in a modern democracy."

The campaign group said it organised a poll which found two-thirds of adults thought it was important or very important that anyone sitting in the House of Lords is elected.

And Mr Howard said he was broadly in favour of its aims.

He told KoS Media: "I am in favour of an elected House of Lords and it was part of my manifesto at the last election. But since we don't have an elected House of Lords, I can't see any justification for freezing appointments to the present House."

Asked if he was about to become a lord, Mr Howard said: "I've no idea. I've not been approached and I haven't been offered a seat in the House of Lords, and I don't know if I will be or not."

Asked if he would accept a seat if offered, he said: "I would think about it at the time."

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Rotarian tells of Haiti earthquake relief effort

A FORMER police officer has taken part in the ongoing relief effort trying to get quake-stricken Haiti back on its feet.

Months after the Caribbean island was devastated by an earthquake, Medway Rotarian David Hatcher flew out with charity ShelterBox to offer aid to families still coping with the aftermath.

Mr Hatcher, a former chief superintendent at Kent Police and the British Transport Police, is part of a disaster response team with the charity, ready to be deployed around the world.

On his return from Haiti, the 59-year-old said there were still about 1.5 million people living on the streets.

"There are even shanty shacks on the 4ft-wide central reservations in downtown Port au Prince – crazy living conditions," he said.

"Five-storey buildings just pancaked and there are still many bodies to be unearthed when they get round to clearing the sites."

Mr Hatcher, who was the regular police presenter on the BBC's Crimewatch for 15 years, assisted in putting up tents for the many homeless families.

He said: "We helped people in the countryside put up secondhand tents a Rotarian's wife had acquired.



HELPNG HANDS: David Hatcher with earthquake victims helped by ShelterBox

"Then we went into the mountains, to an area called Boutiler, where we supplied tents to families living on the hillside, demonstrating how to erect them and helping them with site preparation."

ShelterBox delivers boxes of aid which each contain a ten-person tent, blankets, toolkits, a stove and a children's pack, to people affected by natural disasters.

More than 230,000 people were killed in the January earthquake, with three million affected by homelessness and lack of food.

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Lenleys are having a great £1 million sale due to a major refurbishment of their showroom in Roper Road, Canterbury. Lenleys, founded in 1936 by schoolfriends Len Watts and Stanley Adsett, moved from the City Centre to its current location in 1983. The exterior of the building has served Lenleys well for the past 27 years but is now showing signs of age and deterioration. The refurbishment creates a new display window, new entrance foyer, new exterior and landscaping as well as improvements to the showroom layout.



To carry out these extensive plans, Lenleys need to clear stocks in all departments. Every item will be drastically reduced for immediate sale and it will be on a **first come-first served basis.**



'We are very excited about the new look', says Jonathan Watts, Managing Director, 'but before that we hope to be really busy selling our present stocks and clearing the decks before work starts in May.' With over 40,000 sq ft of furniture, beds, flooring & soft furnishings displayed over two floors there will be a fantastic choice of great bargains. Choose from sofas, chairs, occasional furniture, beds, bedroom and dining room furniture, pictures, lamps, mirrors, carpets, rugs, blinds, accessories **and much more...**



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Watchdog wants YOUR views on Kent's next Chief Constable

'Help us choose our next chief of police'

KENT Police Authority is calling on KOS Media readers to say what they think should be a top priority for the county's new Chief Constable, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Five candidates have been shortlisted for the position, left open by former Chief Constable Mike Fuller's move to be HM Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service last month.

The £150,000-a-year job is being filled temporarily by Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Leppard, until a decision is reached on who will take over permanently in May.

And Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes is calling on our readers to help make that final decision.

She said: "There are five exceptional candidates shortlisted for the post of Kent's Chief Constable. But before the authority makes the appointment next month, I'd like to know what you – the council taxpayer – would like to see from your next chief of police.

"The authority is a policing watchdog, making sure you get the best possible police service and value for money.

"By finding out your priorities, the authority can set Kent Police targets and make investments in the right policing areas.

"I would really like to know, what would you put as your number one priority for the new Chief Constable? If you're passionate about policing, then this is your chance to write in to KOS Media and tell me."

Mrs Barnes also invited readers to post their views on the authority's Facebook site. Alternatively, you can register by poll at www.kentpoliceauthority.gov.uk.



ANN BARNES: 'What is your number one priority for new Chief Constable?'

She added: "There's nothing to lose, so why not take this opportunity and have your say?"

The shortlist for the new Chief Constable is made up of five of the UK's top police officers.

They are:

• Giles York, 43, the Deputy Chief Constable of Sussex Police. He started his career in Kent in 1990 and has served as area commander of Medway and head of Special Branch at Kent Police.

• Ian Learmonth, 52, Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk Police. He has been a police officer since 1976 and served with two other UK police forces before joining Norfolk.

• Simon Ash, 49, is Chief Constable of Suffolk Police. He began his career at Kent Police in 1982.

• Simon Cole, 43, is Deputy Chief Constable of Hampshire Police. He joined the force in 2003 as Assistant Chief Constable having previously served with West Midlands Police since 1988.

• Alfred Hitchcock, 51, from Lancashire, is Deputy Chief Constable and head of the National College of Police Leadership and National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). He has more than 30 years' experience in policing.

Write to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk with your views on the new Chief Constable.

Meanwhile, the public are already having their say on policing in Kent. An independent advisory group, made up of volunteers from around the county and funded by Kent Police Authority, has been looking into diversity issues and progress made within the force.

Mrs Barnes said: "All our communities are entitled to, and deserve, the very best policing we can provide."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk









TOP COPS: Kent Police Authority has drawn up a shortlist of five candidates – from left: Giles York; Simon Ash; Simon Cole; Alf Hitchcock; and (not pictured) Ian Learmonth

'Nostalgia will not be enough at Dreamland'

DREAMLAND in Margate must feature a mixture of old and new rides and attractions to pull in the punters when it opens in 2012, according to the director of the project to bring the seaside venue back to life.

Speaking at the Thanet Local Board at Margate Media Centre, Jonathon Bryant, of the Dreamland Trust, gave an enthusiastic presentation on the park's future to a large audience.

He said the park would need to feature new rides to appeal to young people as well as rides that would appeal to those with a taste for nostalgia.

He said: "We want to bring out a sense of excitement and thrill. We see there being a very contemporary edge to Dreamland.

"It will have some nostalgia value, but that is not enough to generate footfall and we need to have a new presentation. It needs to have a modern twist. We need stimulation for all the family."

Half the 18-acre site will become a heritage theme park, but concern has been expressed that it will need to feature white-knuckle rides as well as the more genteel attractions.

Some of the rides that may appear on the site could eventually include a new big wheel, a Wild Mouse roller-coaster, River Caves boat ride and a circular Caterpillar ride.

Expectations

However, Roy Ovenden, a Thanet businessman and former mayor of Margate, said: "The eras of the 1950s and '60s are gone. Everybody's expectations are higher than Caterpillar or River Cave rides."

One older woman audience member told Mr Bryant: "The kids want to be scared to death these days.

"It looks like there'll be a lot of old rides that I'll be able to go on and I look forward to doing that, but the kids will need more. That's why they go to places like Thorpe Park."

Mr Bryant said "commercial viability" was the biggest thing on his mind and he hoped the cinema building could also be brought back into use.

He referred to the recent redevelopment of Adventure Island in Southend, which has been a big success. Mr Bryant said the Dreamland venture could be just as successful.

Visit www.dreamlandmargate.com for more information on the project.

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Rotunda sex attack lead



AN INVESTIGATION into a serious sexual assault that took place 16 years ago has been reopened after a new witness came forward.

The attack was in 1994 by the old Rotunda amusement park, Folkestone, and the witness helped produce this e-fit (right). If you recognise him, call PC Andy West on 01303 289254.

Alternatively call 01622 690690 quoting FY/19904/09, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

A COUPLE in their 70s were taken to hospital after their car plunged into a canal near Tenterden. The accident happened just after 1.15pm on March 31, when their vehicle left the B2082 and ended up submerged.

Emergency services pulled the couple from the water before they were taken to Ashford's William Harvey Hospital, suffering from shock and hypothermia.

AN UNEMPLOYED mechanic with a debilitating bowel condition was told he should get a job as a toilet cleaner by JobCentre staff. Martin Watts, from Sheerness, has Crohn's disease and says company TNG Avanta – which is contracted to run the flexible new deal programme – was insensitive to his needs.

"When they said I could work as a supermarket cleaner so I could be close to the loo to accommodate my illness, I was shell-shocked," he said. A Department of Work and Pensions official said they would contact Mr Watts to mediate and find a solution.

Public demand sees head in slaughtered lamb row reinstated

By **JAMES ALEXANDRE**
james.alexandre@kosmedia.co.uk

A PRIMARY school headteacher who had been hounded out of her job over the slaughter of the school lamb has been reinstated by public demand.

Andrea Charman, who resigned from Lydd primary school in February, will be welcomed back by parents and pupils in the new term after the Easter holidays.

It had been claimed she was the victim of a vicious online campaign after allowing the wether lamb, called Marcus, to be sent to the abattoir.

Some of the children had apparently grown fond of Marcus and were left distraught by what happened to him.

The school said each class had an opportunity to discuss what would happen to the lamb, but the issue generated a worldwide media frenzy and divided opinion over whether the youngsters should have been faced with such a decision.

Facebook

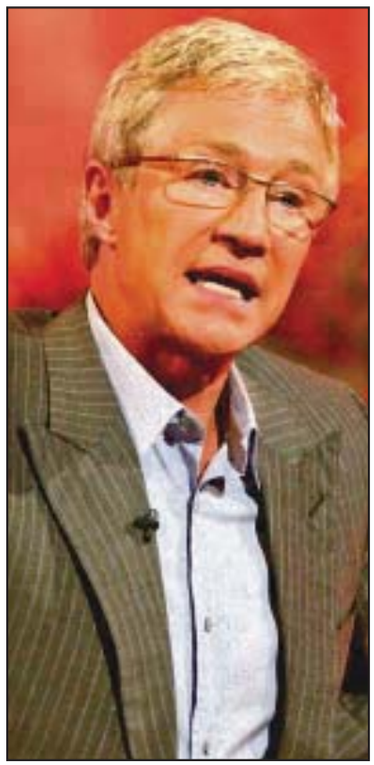
In a message on social-networking site Facebook, Ms Charman's daughter Ruth announced the news and quoted the words of German-French philosopher Albert Schweitzer.

She wrote: "My mum doesn't have Facebook so asked me to post this on her behalf:

'I was looking for a message to express my thanks and found this: 'At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lit the flame within us.'.

'I was fortunate enough to have my flame relit by sparks from many others and I thank you.'."

Parents and supporters also left messages, saying it was fantastic news and that common sense had prevailed.





UPROAR: TV's Paul O'Grady (left) offered to take in Marcus the sheep which caused Andrea Charman (right) to lose her job

Kent County Council cabinet member for education Sarah Hohler said: "I am very pleased that Andrea Charman is returning to Lydd primary school.

"The community has spoken and made their feelings known loud and clear. There is overwhelming support for her.

"Under her guidance the school made tremendous progress and I know she will relish the opportunity to continue that work and do her best for the children and staff."

Campaign

In the wake of the furore in September last year, an online petition calling for the removal of Ms Charman attracted more than 2,500 signatures, while a Facebook group originally set up to save Marcus has almost 1,500 members.

Comedian and TV host Paul O'Grady even offered to give the lamb a home at his farm in Aldington and keep students updated on his well-being.

Outgoing Shepway MP Michael Howard said at the time of Ms Charman's resignation that the "relentlessness" of the campaign had led to the loss of a great headteacher.

Drugs giant drops lawsuit over Viagra

PFIZER has agreed to drop an eight-year-old patent infringement lawsuit against rivals Eli Lilly & Coover Viagra after a US government agency rejected part of the male impotence drug's patent.

The notice of agreement was filed in Delaware's District Court, where Pfizer brought the case in 2002.

It was put on hold last year pending a review of Pfizer's patent by the US Patent and Trademark Office.

The office partially rejected the patent because it works in a way similar to the Chinese herb yin yang huo, sold on websites under the name horny goat weed.

Emotional tribute to teen found dead

THE family of a Dover teenager whose body was found by the side of a creek near Sandwich have paid him an emotional tribute.

Karl Pay, 19, was last seen alive at Rivals nightclub in Queen Street, Deal, on Friday, March 26.

His body was discovered last week, but police are not treating his death as suspicious.

A statement by his family said: "He brightened up the darkest day and the cloudiest sky, his smile alone warmed hearts, his laughter was music to our ears.

"We may never know what happened to him that night and that's the hardest part."

400-year-old model tomb up for auction

A MODEL of a tomb in Canterbury Cathedral is expected to be sold at auction for £14,000 next week.

The 400-year-old mock-up is made of wood, paper and card, and shows the tomb of Dame Mary Thornhurst in St Michael's Chapel.

It is believed to have been a working design as it contains a number of differences to the finished memorial.

The work will be sold at Christie's auction house in London on Wednesday.

Court appearances

TWO men have appeared in court charged with grievous bodily harm with intent.

Richard Peter Mumford and Warren Paul Bennett, both 28 and of Upper Luton Road, Chatham, were arrested after an incident near their homes in which a 21-year-old Gillingham man suffered stab wounds.

Mumford pleaded guilty and Bennett not guilty at Maidstone Crown Court.

Permit scheme cutting amount of time roadworks are in place



WORKING: Coordinating the work utility firms need to do is saving time

KENT County Council says its new works permit scheme has shaved weeks off the time roadworks are in place, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

The authority says more coordination between Kent Highway Services and utility companies means the cones are no longer down for as long as before.

The scheme that was introduced earlier this year means a company planning to dig up a road must first apply for permission from the council.

This allows them to manage and coordinate works, for instance getting firms to work at the same time instead of digging holes separately, thereby minimising jams and delays suffered by motorists.

KCC cabinet member for highways Cllr Nick Chard said: "The benefits of the permit scheme are clear.

"By working with utility firms to regulate the work they want to do on our roads we can significantly cut congestion and traffic jams, making Kent a better place to live and work."

Recently, work at the busy Oakfield Lane and Hawley Road junction in Dartford pooled proposed major roadworks by Thames Water with those of a gas company, BT and four Kent Highway Services jobs to just six weeks. This cut potential delays to drivers by 17 weeks.

Thames Water project manager Steve Chapman said: "We always try and minimise disruption caused by our works. One of the ways we do this is by working closely with local authorities and other utility companies to ensure that we coordinate work or avoid doing them at particularly busy times."



With a fascinating history, Ightham Mote continues to lure people under its spell.

Enchanting house keeps

TUCKED away in the Wealden countryside, Ightham Mote is perhaps the quintessential English country home.

With its tranquil setting, attractive half-timbered walls and unusual moat, the medieval manor house at Ivy Hatch, near Sevenoaks, has stood the test of time.

Yet the building that has inspired literary greats, and may even have ghostly spirits lurking in its dark corners, faced the very real prospect of demolition just 60 years ago.

Today, courtesy of a series of continual improvement programmes, it stands as something of a jewel in the portfolio of the National Trust. And is one of its quirkiest too.

After all, it's not every house that comes complete with a protected historic dog kennel.

What's more, the house's attraction has proved more involved than most. Courtesy of conservation work conducted by the Trust – it is one of the largest projects to have been undertaken on a house of this date – visitors have been able to witness its evolution.

Property manager Bernadette Gillow explains: "This year we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Ightham Mote coming to the Trust," she said.

"It was opened straightaway and we didn't know how many visitors there would be.

"We had 100,000 people so we had to fix the house. It took as long as it did because we stayed open while we were doing it. Many people had helped us and there were lots of opportunities to see conservation in progress."



Picture: © NTPL / Nadia Mackenzie



Picture: © NTPL / Nadia Mackenzie



Picture: © NTPL / Nadia Mackenzie



Picture: © NTPL / Robert Morris

The earliest parts of the building may have been built by widow Isolde Inge, considered by some to be the first owner of the property.

It then came into the possession of Sir Thomas Cawne in around 1360 – and it was Cawne who built up the bulk of the house which still stands today. Indeed his remains are believed to be buried in the village.

The property passed through various hands before being bought by Sir William Selby in 1592 and remaining in the Selby family for the next 300 years.

Following a three-year let to an American general, Ightham Mote was purchased by Sir



JANE CONNOLLY takes a look at just what it is that makes it so very special

guests coming



IDEAL HOME: (Clockwise from far left) The Great Hall with its vaulted ceiling; the 'haunted' Tower Bedroom; the exterior; Dido's listed kennel; the grand drawing room

Did you know?

• Dating from 1320, Ightham Mote's hidden location – it is sited in a sunken valley – may have been the key to its survival. Legend has it that when Thomas Cromwell's soldiers tried to find the house, they lost their way and decided to loot another property instead.

• When a German pilot bailed out of his plane onto the estate during the Second World War, he was imprisoned in the 14th-century crypt for one night.

• Ightham Mote's last private owner, Charles Henry Robinson, already had a long connection to the house when he bought it in 1953. Decades earlier, the American had spotted a picture of the property at a London art dealer's shop and, while on a bicycle tour a few years later, he came across the house of his dreams in person. When he finally heard the property was up for sale, he travelled to England specifically to view it.

Thomas Colyer-Fergusson, who built an impressive dog kennel for his dog Dido.

This kennel would later be given Grade I-listed status and remains one of the property's most unusual attractions.

"The house has changed hands a lot. The Colyer-Fergussons raised five children here and there are still people who can tell us about living here," Mrs Gillow said.

When Sir James Colyer-Fergusson sold up in 1951, there was talk of knocking the house down, until three local businessmen stepped in to save it from being destroyed.

Two years later, their faith was rewarded when Charles Henry Robinson, an American bachelor, returned to England to buy the house which he had first seen in a picture decades earlier. On his death in 1985, Ightham Mote passed to the National Trust, although a family connection remains.

"It was his passion and, although he only spent a couple of months a year here, he loved all things English," Mrs Gillow said. "His nephews still come and stay in the holiday lets."



Picture: © NTPL / Robert Morris

Ghostly charm

With its charming and picturesque qualities, it is no surprise that Ightham Mote has excited the imagination of some literary figures. Anya Seton, a friend of Robinson's, modelled the country house in her novel, Green Darkness, on her acquaintance's English home. When Henry James, author of The Turn of the Screw, spent Christmas at the house in 1887, he had a curious encounter in the Tower Bedroom.

He said: "I slept in a room with a ghost and an oubliette, but fortunately the former remained in the latter."

Looking at the atmospheric bedroom and the trapdoor above the 'dungeon' to which James refers, it is easy to imagine the writer being surprised by a spectre.

Mrs Gillow said: "I've lived and worked here for 15 years and never seen anybody who shouldn't be here, though Mr Robinson did have the house exorcised because he thought there was a presence. In October we have ghost and gourmet tours and people have claimed to have had sightings."

As visitors explore the house, they're taken on a journey through Ightham Mote's history and the many hands that have shaped it over the centuries. From the 14th-century Great Hall, with its great arching beams and carved figures, to Robinson's 1960s bedroom and library, this is a house that has been truly lived in and loved by its residents.

"It's charming, beautiful and quirky," Mrs Gillow said. "People have tried to improve it, but they never got away from the English medieval, moated house.

"The Trust's philosophy is to present the house as it was when we got it. So it's very interesting to make the decision about whether to show the library as Mr Robinson's 20th-century room or expose the 18th-century wallpaper. The main thing is to preserve and conserve it."

Among the house's many fascinating highlights is the beautiful New Chapel, with its barrel-vaulted ceiling, hand-painted with emblems celebrating Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon. In the Tower Room, visitors can see some of the finds made during the conservation project, including shoes hidden up chimneys to ward off evil spirits in the 1600s.

As Ightham Mote continues to offer up its secrets, there can be little doubt that visitors will continue flocking to it.

"Because we have such a long and strong heritage, people love being steeped in that atmosphere," Mrs Gillow said. "They also like finding out more about those who lived here and their stories, not just about the building."

• Ightham Mote is open from Thursday to Monday until October 31. For more information, call 01732 811145 or visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk.



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Health chiefs welcome air quality report

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A REPORT saying the UK should be "ashamed" of its poor air quality has been welcomed by environmental health chiefs in Kent.

Members of the Commons' Environmental Audit Committee say failure to reduce pollution has put an "enormous" cost on the NHS and could cause the early deaths of up to 50,000 people every year.

The report has been endorsed by the Kent and Medway Air Quality Monitoring Network, which records pollution levels throughout the county and helps its local authorities meet strict EU targets.

Chairman Brian Gibson said: "The partnership supports any report that raises the profile of air pollution because it's a big issue that needs to be broadcast far and wide as far as we're concerned.

"The Commons report addresses the problem on a national basis but it's as relevant in Kent as it is everywhere else in the country.

"The pockets of poor air quality we have are predominantly due to road traffic, and particularly heavy goods vehicles. Dover, for example, has in excess of 20,000 vehicles travelling through per day.

"It also suffers a particular problem with emissions from ships because they burn bunker fuel, which is different to what you would put in your car. That's why we've declared it an air-quality management area.

"By identifying and publishing such areas, we at least have a starting point in trying to reduce its size or revoke it altogether."

The report revealed that Britain's filthy air kills more people per year than obesity, passive smoking and traffic accidents.

On average, people in the UK lose seven to eight months of their lives because of it, but in pollution hot spots like London that can rise to eight or nine years.

The health costs of pollution are estimated to be up to £20.2 billion – the same as the fallout from alcohol – while Britain also faces a £30 million fine from the EU for failing to meet air-quality standards.

As a result, the committee has called on the Government to make air quality a much higher priority and to educate the public on the dangers and how to minimise their exposure to pollution.

All 12 of Kent's district councils, as well as the county council, are represented in the air-quality network.

Mr Gibson – who is also Dover council's senior environmental protection officer – said the group offers advice on green planning issues and promotes incentives such as improved cycle paths and car-sharing schemes.

But he added: "It's difficult for us to find improvements when road traffic creates most of the problems."



Craven films at Wildwood

JOHN Craven visited a Kent animal park to film the latest edition of his popular wildlife show Countryfile.

The legendary presenter returned to Canterbury's Wildwood attraction as part of an episode on disappearing species of the UK, including hedgehogs and pine martens.

It will be screened this Sunday at 6.15pm on BBC One.

Wildwood chief executive Peter Smith said: "Wildwood is a great resource for this type of filming.

"There are animals here that would take a film crew a long time to get good shots of, and it gives us the opportunity to let people know about the work we do."

Visit www.wildwoodtrust.org or call 01227 712111 for more information.



Pictures: DAVID McHUGH

WIN tickets to Grand Designs Live London 2010

THE UK's number one award-winning consumer show for design and inspiration for your home is back.

Grand Designs Live, returns to London for the sixth year running, across nine days from May 1-9 at ExCeL in London's Docklands.

And you could be there for free by winning one of ten pairs of tickets we have to give away.

Grand Designs Live London 2009, was a runaway success, with a record 105,000 visitors attending the show, enjoying a wide variety of features from interiors and home style trends, build techniques and a selection of live eco houses, the latest in domestic gadgets as well as celebrity advice from Channel 4's Kevin McCloud and George Clarke.

The 2010 show will be no exception, offering even more interactive features than ever before, with the largest showcase around of the latest cutting-edge design, new homes, interior products and advice, green building and renovation techniques, as well as the sleekest and most stylish kitchens and bathrooms for your home.



Based on the hugely popular and successful Channel 4 TV series – presented by design guru Kevin McCloud – Grand Designs Live is a show for anyone who has an interest in design, build, interiors, shopping, homewares, gardens, kitchens and bathrooms, and innovation. With over 500 exhibitors and seven separate shows, visitors will be able to buy products to build and furnish their home, all under one roof.



KOS Media has ten pairs of tickets to offer readers. To be in with a chance of winning one pair, simply answer the question:

Question: Which venue will host Grand Designs Live London?

To enter, simply answer the question above and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Grand Designs Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is April 23, 2010.

For more information on the show visit www.granddesignslive.com. If you're not lucky enough to win, make sure you book in advance to save £5 on each ticket. Call 0844 5810771 or see www.granddesignslive.com.

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

This offer is only open to UK residents.

Competition winners' tickets are valid for any one day of the show between May 1-9, 2010, to Grand Designs Live at Excel London.

Tickets are non-transferable.

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All tickets will be scanned on entry to the show.

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A relic of our rural past

Lookers' huts have tales to tell of Kent's agricultural heyday



SHELTER: This Churchlands Farm looker's hut is one of the few that remain
Pictures: NIGEL P CRICK (GALLERY TWENTY ONE)

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

THEY once dominated the marshes, a symbol of a thriving sheep-farming industry and shelter for the men who tended the flocks.

But some 200 years later, all that remains of the 350 lookers' huts in Romney Marsh are 16 rundown buildings, left to ruin since the agricultural heyday of the 1800s.

The shepherds who stayed in them were known as lookers, who watched over the masses of Romney sheep owned by absentee landlords.

Travelling long distances and needing to be close to the flocks at pasture meant being away from home, so they would take shelter in the small buildings dotted across the marshes.

But after World War Two, much of the land was ploughed and the large flocks never returned, with the huts falling in to ruin as fewer lookers were needed.

To capture the history of the lookers' lonely life, photographer Nigel P Crick, from Littlestone, has released a book of photographs showing the last remaining huts.

He said: "I was touring the marshes and I came across one of them and thought how interesting it was.





MARSH HERITAGE: Lookers' huts at Dymchurch and Cliff Marsh Farm

"I found out what it was and did a bit of homework to try and find some others, and it went from there.

"They're all very different and quirky in their own way, and exclusive to Kent and East Sussex.

"There are similar buildings for the same purpose in Wales, but lookers and the huts of this kind were unique to this area."

The buildings were usually built of brick, with a chimney at one end and a pitched Kent peg-tile roof.

Most were about 10 feet square, big enough for a sleeping area and hearth for the looker, plus storage for tools. Sick sheep would sometimes also be kept there to recover.

Mr Crick, who has now settled on Romney Marsh with his wife and daughter, said: "It would be a temporary shelter for the lookers.

"It was often too far for them to travel home each day so they would need somewhere to stay. It was a lonely life, but these huts would provide a place for them to sleep and eat."

Mr Crick, who runs Gallery Twenty One on Romney Marsh, wanted to photograph the huts before they became completely derelict.

Some still remain standing with their roofs and chimneys intact, while others are little more than piles of bricks.

"Each one is very unique," he said.

"When I first came across one two or three years ago I didn't know what it was, but I wanted to find out more.

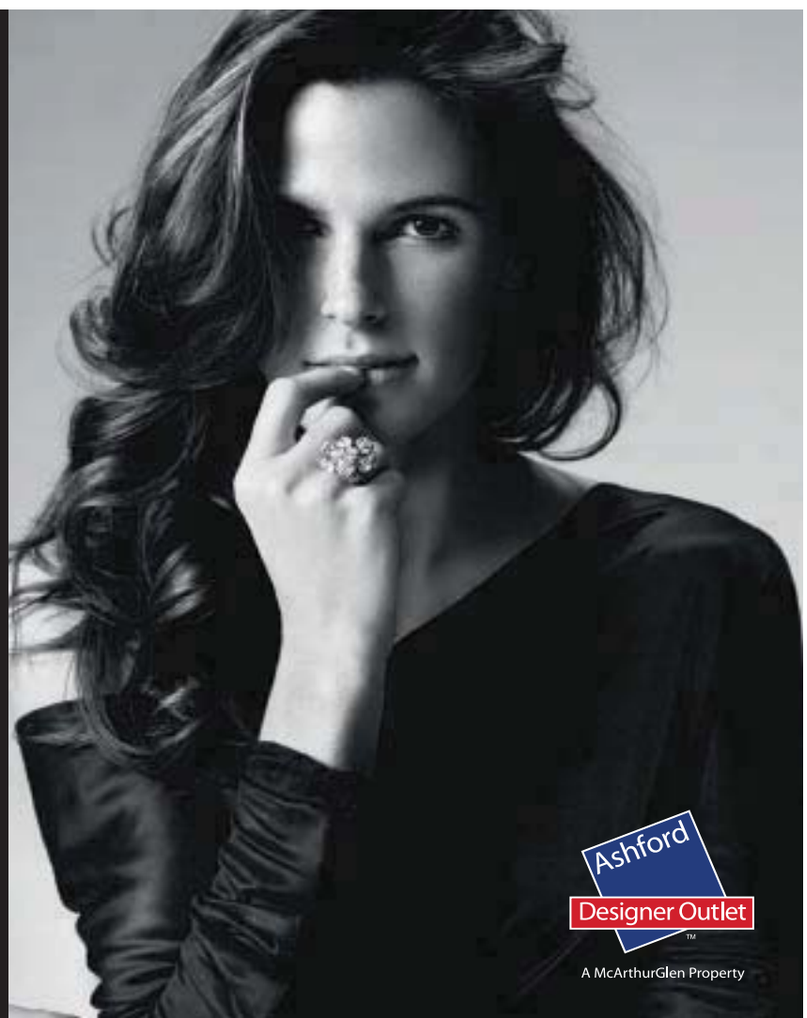
"After doing some research I realised there were others and I wanted to make a record of them.

"I hope people will find the pictures as interesting as I do."

• For a copy of the book (£8.99) go to orders@orcabookservices.co.uk or call 01202 665432.
• Images are available from www.gallerytwentyone.co.uk.

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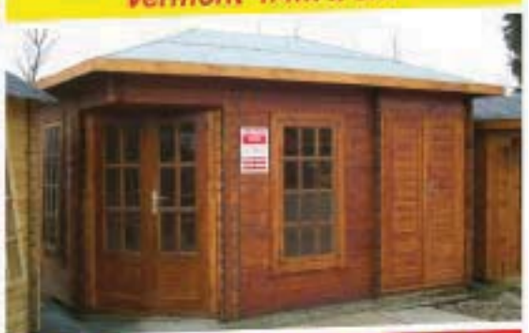
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Henman in town

TENNIS star Tim Henman visited Maidstone town centre on the lookout for new sporting talent.

The former UK number one stopped off in Earl Street to launch his search for 75 tennis stars of the future, marking the 75-year partnership between Wimbledon and the Robinsons drinks company.

He said: "Robinsons has been a part of Wimbledon as far back as I can remember, so I am delighted to be involved in its 75th anniversary and to help Robinsons encourage the next generation of players and rising tennis stars."

Children interested in taking part in a training camp with Henman at Wimbledon can register at www.robinsonsdrinks.com/wimbledon.

Chitty's the star

CHITTY Chitty Bang Bang will be the star of the show at this year's Kent Air Ambulance open day.

The famous car from the 1968 children's classic movie will be making an appearance at the helicopter team's Marden headquarters, near Maidstone, on June 27.

Other attractions at the event, which runs from 10am until 4pm, include an emergency services demonstration, a classic car show, live music, a hog roast and a licensed bar.

Cash raised from the event will go towards the £1.7m per year cost of keeping the helicopter airborne.

Homework help online for parents

PARENTS asked to help with school homework are feeling the pressure as they struggle to support their child's learning, a new report has revealed, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

Almost 80 per cent in the South East admitted to not understanding the curriculum, with 50 per cent of youngsters confessing to feeling confused when their parents try to help.

The report 'I'm stuck - can you help me?' – commissioned by the Government agency Becta – aims to provide parents in Kent with information to show them how to support their children.

Schools are also being encouraged to set up websites and learning platforms to equip confused parents with the resources they need to help with homework.

Neil McLean, executive director of Becta, said using technology in this way is extremely beneficial to a child's learning.

"Schools benefit from pro-active involvement from parents and if children feel they are getting the right support from the schools and families, this has a positive effect on their grades," he said.

"Many schools are already using the technology in innovative yet practical ways to advise parents on how best to support children's education at home.

"They are reaping the rewards as children's performance improves at school."

Challenging

The report revealed that 81 per cent of parents in the region are asked for help with homework by their children at least once a week.

And the majority admitted it proved challenging as they did not always understand what their child was learning.

One in 10 parents also confessed they frequently felt unable to support their child.

A third of parents expressed a desire to know exactly how a teacher was explaining a topic so they could use the methods at home.

For children, about 26 per cent revealed they were sometimes unable to complete their homework because there was no one to help them, while a third admitted the lack of support meant work took at least 30 minutes longer.



SUPPORT: Parents' inability to help can leave children struggling with homework

Becta is pushing for schools to get involved in its Next Generation Learning programme, which urges education officials to use technology to link parents with the curriculum.

There are already a number of schools in Kent leading the way, using ICT to improve links between work at school and at home.

Dartford Technology College invites parents to its website where they can see what their child is studying and download hints, revision guides and a 'curriculum map'.

Excellence

Principal Patricia Burleigh said: "My experiences have taught me that children deserve excellence and enjoyment in their education. The highest standards of learning and teaching should be available to all.

"This should be supported by the latest technologies within a caring and well-ordered environment."

Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre, in Tenterden, was also highlighted for its use of ICT to improve the school and was commended with an ICT Excellence Award from Next Generation Learning.

For information about the Becta scheme go to www.nextgenerationlearning.org.uk.

Becta's Mr McLean said: "We'd encourage any parent wanting to find out how technology could help them support their children to visit the website and talk to their child's school about the technology available."

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Kids are playing by the rules

By MARIJKE COX
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

LOUTISH behaviour on problem housing estates is dropping rapidly, with help from Charlton Athletic FC.

More than 100,000 youngsters from across the county are being given access to football training sessions with the club through its charitable trust.

The scheme involves coaching in estates and wards where social responsibility is an issue, and figures have shown that the initiative is working.

East Kent has seen the most dramatic change, with a 59 per cent drop in reported trouble on a problematic housing estate in Dover.

The scheme, which is jointly run by the Charlton Community Trust, Kent County Football Association (KCFA), Kent Police and the fire service, began three years ago and takes place on estates throughout the county.

KCFA chairman Barry Bright said it enhances young people's self-esteem and teaches them to lead constructive lives.

"Football is playing an important role in helping to keep kids off the street and teaching them to play by the rules," he said.

Encouraged

Darryl Hayden, senior football development officer at the KCFA, said the initial draw for most of the youngsters was being linked to Charlton.

"It was links with the badge that first encouraged young people to come – the sessions started when Charlton were still in the Premiership," he said.

"Project co-ordinators and coaches come down and deliver the programme and now there are thousands of kids taking part all across Kent.

"We deliver sessions where they live and they come along and play."

Mr Hayden said for the youngsters that come to watch, organisers have in the past offered DJing sessions, sexual health advice and talks from the fire service.

But funding, which comes from local authorities, is an ongoing obstacle, determining how often and for how long the football programme can last.

"Some areas run four sessions a week for 10 weeks and others two nights a week for 20 weeks – it all comes down to whether there is enough funding available," Mr Hayden added.

But organisations behind the project believe it is vital for keeping youngsters off the streets at night.

Supt Neil Jerome, head of Kent Police's crime reduction department, said it is a way of diverting youngsters away from the possibility of behaving anti-socially.

"The young people who attend are taught self-discipline, tolerance and good citizenship," he said. "Unpleasant or bad behaviour is not tolerated from anyone involved in the programme.

"We are pleased with what it has achieved, and were delighted when it received national recognition in October 2009 when it won a Tilley Award to recognise the contribution made to communities in the county.

"Kent Police and local councils are working hard to tackle the issues that matter most to local communities. This scheme addresses the issues raised to us concerning anti-social behaviour."

• *To get involved go to www.kentfa.com*



POSITIVE EFFECT: Football training sessions run by Charlton Athletic FC are helping youngsters to stay out of trouble

Teenager jailed after stabbing

A TEENAGE thug who stabbed a man in the back, thigh and buttock has been jailed for three years.

Jermaine Cole, 18, of Lambeth Close, Chatham, plunged a knife into his Rochester victim three times in May last year.

The horror attack took place in a park near Laburnum Road, Strood, following an altercation between two groups of teenagers.

The victim, also 18, was left with severe injuries.

Cole pleaded guilty to wounding with intent at Maidstone Crown Court and was jailed on Friday, March 26.

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DRUGS HAUL: Skunk cannabis found in a raid at a warehouse in Medway

Keeping the borders of county safe

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

BORDER control officers based across Kent helped seize illegal drugs worth more than £237 million in just one year.

They also helped prevent 27,000 dangerous weapons from reaching the streets and confiscated 557 million smuggled cigarettes, representing a £109 million loss in tax revenue.

Launched on April 1, 2009, the UK Border Agency was formed when customs and immigration officers joined forces as one single organisation.

It is based in Dover and is also represented at the French ports of Calais, Coquelles, Dunkirk and Boulogne.

Regional director Tony Smith said: "The public expects us to keep the UK border safe and secure at all times because drugs, illegal immigration and contraband damage local communities and businesses.

"That's why we have a strong new force at the border with combined customs and immigration powers, which works 24 hours a day to stop illegal immigrants and smugglers."

Successes

Over the past year more than a million freight vehicles have been searched at British border controls in northern France and Belgium, with 29,000 illegal attempts to cross the Channel thwarted.

Notable successes include the seizure of drugs worth £3.7 million from just one lorry – which was loaded with oil drums packed with heroin, amphetamine, ecstasy and cannabis – as well as the discovery of 5kg of cocaine hidden in a car bumper and 1.2 tonnes of hand-rolling tobacco concealed in a cargo load of boilers.

But as well as protecting the border from drugs, counterfeit goods, weapons and illegal immigrants, the agency also carries out intelligence-led operations to catch illegal workers and other immigration offenders at Kent businesses.

Where companies are found using illegal workers they face a fine of up to £10,000 per employee.

Examples include the arrest of six onion farmers from Iraq and Palestine who were caught working at a farm in north Kent, and a £30,000 fine for the Hands On Car Wash firm in Ashford, Tenterden and Folkestone that was found to be employing illegal immigrants.

Large companies have also been caught out as well, such as the Whitstable branch of Domino's Pizza that was fined £10,000 for giving work to an illegal Indian and Kosovan.

Mr Smith added: "We are dedicated to stopping drugs getting on to our streets, removing illegal migrants and locking up or deporting the most serious criminals.

"We will continue to crack down on foreign nationals who don't play by the rules, and the people and organisations behind them."

Children's Easter pilgrimage to cathedral

ALMOST 700 children from across Kent took part in an Easter Monday pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral.

The youngsters travelled from locations throughout the county and were joined by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, who started his journey at the nearby village of Sturry. It was also the first pilgrimage for the new Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott.

He said: "The young pilgrims joined together for an exciting service that helped them appreciate the relevance of the Easter story, and all 700 go home with a message of hope to share with their communities."

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Cancer breakthrough by campus research team

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

SLOWLY but surely, scientists are edging towards a cure for cancer and now a Kent medical research team has revealed a new breakthrough.

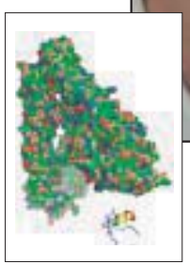
Dr Mark Howard's research at the University of Kent's School of Biosciences has led to the development of a technique that will deliver cancer treatments direct to certain tumours and he has now patented the discovery.

It is primarily aimed at targeting pancreatic cancer – which is difficult to treat – and involves cancer-targeting peptides binding to a protein complex found in high levels on many tumour cells but absent in most normal tissues.

By seeking out this protein and binding to it, the peptides can deliver treatments directly to the site with increased precision and reduced side effects.

And the treatment is so effective that American company Aura Biosciences has already licensed the technique from Cancer Research Technology (CRT). Dr Howard's role in this development on behalf of CRT – which is owned by Cancer Research UK – involved identifying the shape of the peptides. He said: "These peptides have a particular three-dimensional shape enabling them to specifically target this tumour-associated protein in a more effective way than ever observed before. We were able to model different peptide shapes and see a clear link between shape and effectiveness of the peptide."





PATENT PROGRESS: Dr Mark Howard and (left) computer model of the peptide and protein target

Dr Howard, a member of the Protein Science Research Group, added that the technology has potential within tumour imaging and therapy for efficient identification and eradication of cancers.

The senior lecturer joined the School of Biosciences in 2001 and his research interests include the structural and dynamic characterisation of biochemically relevant molecules, enhanced structural stability in proteins and peptides, as well as advancing nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Collateral damage when treating cancer cells has long been a problem.

But Dr Phil L'Huillier, director of business management at CRT, said: "These peptides have the potential to seek out and destroy cancer cells, leaving surrounding areas unharmed.

"We believe this technology could have particular strengths in delivering treatments for cancers that have limited treatment options, such as pancreatic and head and neck cancer.

"Crucially, this targeted treatment could also reduce the side effects that are commonly associated with standard therapies.

"We look forward to the results of this programme with great interest."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Olympic Spirit

OLYMPIC champion Dame Kelly Holmes will officially name two new cross-Channel ferries that will be the largest ever to operate in the Dover Strait.

The first of the two vessels – to be called Olympic Spirit – will be delivered to P&O Ferries at the end of this year, weighing a massive 49,000 tonnes.

Its identical sister ship – Olympic Pride – will be introduced in the autumn of 2011.

The ferries will provide space for more than 160 lorries, which is double the capacity of the vessels they are replacing, the Pride of Dover and the Pride of Calais.

Missing man safe

AN EPILEPTIC man missing since March 20 has been found safe and well in south London.

Terry Banham, 47, from Dartford, disappeared without his medication, leading to a search involving dogs, a helicopter and door-to-door inquiries.

People were also asked to check sheds and outhouses in case Mr Banham was hiding inside.

However, Metropolitan Police officers picked him up in Woolwich on Thursday, April 1.

A reviving brew

A BREWERY has reopened more than 25 years after closing down.

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Brewing Company, in Chapman Way, is reviving the tradition, using local ingredients and water.

New co-owner Simon Lewis said: "This is a culmination of a year's hard work to bring the brewing tradition back to this area.

"I think these will be beers the town can be proud of."

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Women seeking men

ORIENTAL single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890

FUN-TO-BE-WITH, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 TXT

27-YEAR-OLD female, 5ft8, medium-curvy build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, WLTM tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644 TXT

BLUE-EYED brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH to get to know. Box 880105 TXT

LOVING single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326 TXT

31YR old easygoing, independent female, WLTM cuddly fella to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931 TXT

FRIENDLY lady, 33, 5ft2in, likes walking, seeking a down to earth, easygoing guy who likes the simple things in life. Bromley. Box 467984 TXT

SINGLE mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835 TXT

CARING, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 TXT

PRINCESS Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957 TXT

CURVY brunette, 35, with green eyes, 5ft3, no ties, looking for an affectionate, and caring non-smoking guy to put the sparkle back into my life.Ashford. Box 849706

HELLO I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 TXT

PETITE lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wining and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 TXT

SINGLE mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164 TXT

LOVELY female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

MUM of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 TXT

LOVING female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 TXT

FUN to be with woman, 39, I love life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392 TXT

EASTBOURNE based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034 TXT

BLACK lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. Wltm a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608 TXT

CUTE single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897983

SHY but confident-once-known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 TXT

SHY female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wining and dining, holidays; seeking likewise gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763 TXT

LOVELY, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTM a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 TXT

HI, I'm based in Ashford and I'm looking for a nice guy in the area. I'm a single mum, 42 and enjoy cooking, and cosy nights. Box 468148 TXT

ATTRACTIVE single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. WLTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 855182 TXT

HELLO, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, GSOH, looking for a man with no issues and GSOH who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 TXT

HARD working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037 TXT

SINGLE mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129 TXT

HI there, I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes. I enjoy cinema, eating out etc and WLTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612 TXT

FUNNY, cheerful lady, 44, 5'6", curly hair, very social, likes walks and pubs, looking for a cuddly and outgoing man for a close relationship. Faversham. Box 467518 TXT

FIT and healthy woman, average build. I'm 44, young looking and love animals. I would love to meet a sincere fella to spend time with. Maidstone. Box 466419 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 TXT

PETITE, slim, honey-blonde lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458466 TXT

ATTRACTIVE, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128 TXT

BUBBLY female, 44, brunette, N/S, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 TXT

AFRICAN lady, full-figured and radiant! I'm a Christian, 46, 5ft5, attractive, caring and intelligent and enjoy jazz, travel, theatre. WLTM decent, white male, Gillingham. Box 466617 TXT

SINGLE curvy mum of three, 46, dark hair and blue eyes, GSOH, loves animals, socialising, seeking a similar and romantic man. Tunbridge Wells. Box 467997 TXT

FUN-LOVING girl, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Rainham. Box 854480 TXT

SLIM blue-eyed blonde, 47, 5ft4, animal lover with no ties, very sociable, non-smoker, loves the countryside, seeking easygoing companion and soulmate. Box 468120 TXT

YOUNG 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, worldly man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113 TXT

HUMBLE lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 461938 TXT

AFRICAN lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999 TXT

FEMALE, 48, divorced and happy, 5ft7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 a must. Maidstone. Box 866380 TXT

CARING, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks, WLTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 TXT

EASYGOING woman, likes most things in life; country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. WLTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635 TXT

PETITE blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822

PRETTY, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686 TXT

DIVORCED single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

CURVY woman, 49, 5ft10. I enjoy being by the sea, music, walks, meals out, cinema, crosswords, and reading. Seeking kind, caring man in the Maidstone area. Box 466608 TXT

YOUNG 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating, out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089 TXT

PETITE, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, WLTM genuine male, to see where life takes us! Box 893562 TXT

SLIM blonde, 51, 5ft3, very caring, active, loves diy and gardening, WLTM a man with similar interests to get to know better. Sheerness. Box 467112 TXT

PETITE brunette, 51, 5ft, likes live music, pubs and socialising, GSOH, seeking a like-minded male for a serious relationship. Hastings. Box 467807 TXT

WARM hearted lady, 51, look younger! I'm 5ft6, slim build, with blonde hair, divorced (grown up children). WLTM nice man, 40's/50's in the Aylesford area. Box 461834 TXT

SHORT 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading, seeking a genuine gent, 45-58, with GSOH to enjoy evenings out, stimulating conversations and fun. Box 452311 TXT

FEMALE 49, 5ft4, long hair, slim build, likes eating out, the beach, travel, seeks a friendly chap, 48-55. Hastings. Box 417100 TXT

PETITE woman, 53, with blonde/brown hair and blue eyes, 5'3", enjoy socialising, walking, cinema and generally having fun with a tall, honest man. Gillingham. Box 856810 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY lady, 53, 5ft3, slim, blonde-brown hair, blue eyes looking for a tall, honest guy, for love and laughter and happy times. South Kent. Box 464601 TXT

YOUNG-LOOKING, hard-working 53yr old living in East Sussex. I am a happy, caring person with a good sense of humour. Non-smoker. Heathfield. Box 883410 TXT

PROFESSIONAL, attractive female, 54, enjoys the countryside, gardening, keeping fit, reading and live music, looking to meet an attractive and intelligent man for a relationship. Box 448863 TXT

SMART petite lady, 56, 5ft4, tall, blonde hair, green eyes, likes restaurants, theatre, cinema, travel abroad; seeking happy guy with similar interests. Box 448795 TXT

SPONTANEOUS, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship leading to hopefully more. Box 430854 TXT

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VERY young 59 year old, 5ft, fun loving, straight-forward, honest, GSOH, employed with own transport, many varied interests, looking for friendship and companionship initially. Box 452149 TXT

HONEST & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622 TXT

HI my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914 TXT

59YR old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kindred spirit who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143 TXT

OUTGOING lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760 TXT

CUDDLY lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. WLTM tallish single man to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214 TXT

HI there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build. I love dancing, walking by the sea and WLTM like minded gent. Box 459467 TXT

POSITIVE woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002 TXT

EASYGOING lady, 61, 5ft1, walks, cosy nights, pubs meals etc. I'm hoping to meet someone for friendship, and then we'll see. Folkestone. Box 466963 TXT

64 year old widow, 5ft, slim and fit active and healthy, likes walks, theatre, gardening a social woman seeking similar non-smoking gent in Canterbury area. Box 467844 TXT

LOVING and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR...Margate. Box 460082 TXT

WIDOW, early 60's, likes dancing, drinks, gardening, socialising, and walks works, seeking a good gent. Ramsgate. Box 460872 TXT

SLIM, attractive lady, 65, enjoy outdoors pursuits, dog walking, socialising and music, lots of time and tlc to give to the right person. Maidstone. Box 466636 TXT

LADY, 67 years of age, tall, dark hair, non-smoker, likes a bit of gardening, fishing, the seaside, going out, reading, crosswords. Margate. Box 467419

Women seeking women

EASYGOING female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wining, dining, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking likewise female for companionship and more. Box 446953 TXT

HONEST female, 43, 5ft2, medium build, fun-loving, likes clubs, pubs, eating out, nights in, looking for a female for friendship to start, hopefully a LTR. Rochester. Box 466078 TXT



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Men seeking women

FUN-LOVING male, 40, not of many words, likes sports, music, reading and films, seeks company and companion. Snodland. Box 465333 TXT

HI I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTM someone trustworthy and caring. Box 448372 TXT

HI I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, WLTM someone trustworthy and caring to settle down with. Box 448377 TXT

OUTGOING, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750 TXT

YOUNG at heart 44yr old male, stocky build, 5ft10, Kent based, father, honest and down-to-earth, likes music, nights in, walking the dog, seeks genuine lady. Box 851804 TXT

GILLINGHAM male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate! Box 465158 TXT

HELLO, I'm Simon 43, single man in Kent own a construction co. Muscular build, blue-eyed, ruggedly handsome. Looking for a honest and genuine lady. Box 453322 TXT

AMERICAN male, 44, loves playing the guitar, looking for a decent female with a sense of fun about them. Brighton. Box 461140 TXT

TALL man medium build, 44, 5ft9, brown hair/eyes, with an outgoing nature, looking for a female similar to myself with long hair. Box 871274 TXT

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, fun-loving male, 42, 5ft9, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights out/in with a can of coke, seeking similar female for companionship. Box 441762 TXT

RICHARD here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Ashford. Box 467883 TXT

LOVING, caring and reliable, single male, 45, 5ft6, dark hair/blue eyes. I'm seeking a relationship with loving lady 34-56. I like holidays, theatre, music etc. Ashford. Box 465408 TXT

BRIGHTON male, 45, 5ft11, dark hair/eyes, enjoy drinking, socialising, movies, nights in, cooking and clubbing, seeking a lady with similar interests for love. Box 467735 TXT

MALE, 46, medium build, easygoing, GSOH, honest, caring, 5'8", likes walking, reading, visiting places of interest with a similar lady who is honest. Chatham. Box 851230 TXT

MARGATE male, 46, tall and slim easy-going, enjoy cinema, socialising and sport, looking for a decent lady, 40-55, for friendship and maybe a ltr. Box 468189

WELL-BUILT male, 44, looking for a female for friendship and fun, let's make each other smile! Box 883622 TXT

WARM, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in seeks like minded female, for friendship, leading to more. Box 388967

ACTIVE, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things. seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508

CARPENTER with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 449274 TXT

SINGLE dad, 47, enjoy most things in life, likes music, dvds and football, looking for a fun-loving female for a happy romance. Brighton. Box 466460 TXT

FIT male, 47, 6ft, slim, hard working, GSOH, genuine and honest, WLTM a lady, 35-45ish, must be friendly and outgoing. Ashford. Box 466942 TXT

SLIM single dad, 47, works full time, looking for a slim/medium build lady, 25-50, children not a problem. Hobbies include, fishing, football, diy and cooking.Dover. Box 462630 TXT

GENUINE, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-50. Deal, Kent. Box 460441 TXT

GOOD looking male, 49, 5ft11. I have a son of 13 who is great. I just want to find beautiful loving lady to share life with. Box 852357 TXT

GOOD looking divorced man, 48, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 460338

CANTERBURY male, 48, white 6ft3, medium-large build, likes cycling and walking to keep fit, and boats! WLTM slim black lady for possible LTR. Box 465219 TXT

DOWN-TO-EARTH, fun-loving gent, 49, 5ft6, slim build, dark hair. I have GSOH and enjoy the simple things in life; pubs, music, country walks etc. Maidstone. Box 465464 TXT

HONEST, caring man, 50, 5'11", likes cinema, countryside, beach walks, meals out/in, restaurants, looking for honest, caring, lady 45-55. Medway area. Box 852889 TXT

YOUTHFUL dad, 45, 5'10", brown hair, med build, divorcee, likes pubs, cinema, restaurants, theme parks, WLTM female, 36-45, slim, for possible LTR. Cranbrook. Box 737529 TXT

YOUNG 52, I'm a caring male with a GSOH. I enjoy sport, music and eating out, and I would like to meet a similar lady. Rochester. Box 467398 TXT

FIT and active man, 52, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, likes cycling, walking, theatre, poetry and film, WLTM a like-minded slim female, 35-55 with GSOH.Deal. Box 459706 TXT

CANTERBURY area. I'm male, 54, 5ft9, fit and active, attractive. I'm outgoing with a GSOH and enjoy meals out, nights in, animals, female company! Box 464416 TXT

SHY guy! 54, 5ft9, short brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoys walking the dogs, bowling, swims and especially family life, hoping to find the same. Maidstone. Box 468126 TXT

EASYGOING man, 57, would like to meet someone to share good and bad times, finding that special person to be with soul mates. Box 861243 TXT

ACTIVE and easy-going male, mid 50's, always tries to see the funny side of life, looking for a like-minded independent female. Box 46477? TXT

ACTIVE male, 5'9", dark hair, 57, keeps fit, cycles, seeking a cuddly, curvy, mature lady for friendship. Canterbury. Box 467423 TXT

HEALTHY outgoing man, 57, 5ft10, non-smoker, brown hair, enjoys cinema, cooking and more, looking for an honest loving lady for TLC forever. New Romney. Box 467572 TXT

GENUINE male, 58, 5'10", GSOH, slim/medium build, like animals, cooking, beach/country walks, driving, WLTM loving, caring woman, would Rose please ring back with a number? Box 459280 TXT

53YR old male, 6ft, brown hair, blue eyes, own company enjoys coast, countryside, seeks female, 40-60, for true love. Box 782206 TXT

GENUINE chap, 60, medium build, brown hair/eyes. I enjoy socialising, pub meals, walking, cycling and I'm looking for lady with similar interests. Margate area. Box 467429

LOOKING to fall for a lovely lady. I'm a fun-to-be-with gent, 62, 5ft8, I live in Ashford and I'd love to meet you! Box 467766 TXT

LORRY driver, 63, 5ft9, slim, separated, likes going to the pub, playing golf and music, looking for a lovely lady to share life with. Maidstone. Box 462530 TXT

SINGLE male, slim build, 70, 5'10", 12 stone, seeking slim lady, no ties. 35-50, for fun relationship. Box 463644 TXT

RETIRED fella, 70, 5ft10, slim build, smart dresser enjoy gardening, cycling, life in general. Looking for companionship and TLC with lovely, non-smoking lady. Margate area. Box 467861

KENT male, 71, single, own house and car, non-smoker, likes DIY and gardening, walks, socialising and good food, seeking genuine, loving, caring lady. Box 464574 TXT

YOUNG 71yr old man, OHAC, blue eyes, non-smoker. I like eating in or out, and WLTM attractive, affectionate woman for loving relationship. Box 451783 TXT

Men seeking women

KENT guy, 30, enjoy sport, painting, music, looking for a female, similar age possibly older, for friendship and romance. Ashford. Box 851895 TXT

NICE guy, 33, 5ft9, slim, likes bike rides and pubs, looking for a nice female for a good relationship. Sittingbourne. Box 465279 TXT

ASHFORD man, 35, I'm single, no ties, and looking for a similar woman. I'm 6ft6, with blue eyes/brown hair and enjoy pubs/clubs, eating out etc. Box 467416 TXT

AUTISTIC male, 35, likes most thing, meals out, countryside walks, socialising, seeks caring, honest female for fun, friendship, maybe more. Canterbury. Box 467950 TXT

36YR old single father, down to earth, works full time, enjoys family time, outdoor activities, cinema, meals out, seeks a similar lady. Gillingham. Box 854242

HI there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair. I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165 TXT

FUN, romantic, energetic man, 37yrs old, 5ft6, slim build, brown hair/eyes. I enjoy cooking, gardening, summer walks and home life. Maidstone area Box 467172 TXT

AVERAGE bloke, 38, shy! Seeks young lady, looks unimportant, single mums welcome. I love gardening and riding my moped. Sittingbourne. Box 468095 TXT

YOUNG looking male, 39, quiet guy looking for a LTR, want to relax and enjoy life together, with the right woman. Box 858113 TXT

YOUNG 39yr old male, good looking, 5ft9, medium build, dark hair/blue eyes. I enjoy boating, country pubs walks etc. WLTM like minded lady. Sittingbourne area.. Box 467062

SEEKING genuine lady. I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 449648 TXT

GOOD-LOOKING male, 39, fair hair, blue eyes, nice build and height, social, likes holidays, dining out, fit, seeking a woman to go out with. Rochester. Box 460825 TXT

LOVING and caring male, 40, 5ft8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury. Box 458290 TXT

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Trust for Turner

A CHARITABLE trust has taken over the management of the Turner Contemporary art gallery in Margate.

The independent Turner Contemporary Trust is run by a board of trustees including media experts, artists, local businessmen and legal and financial professionals.

Kent County Council will stay onboard as the principal revenue funder but will no longer be responsible for how the development – due to open this autumn – will be managed.

Visit www.turnercontemporary.org for more information.

Calling film fans

A MOVIE filmed entirely in Kent will be screened on the opening night of this week's London Independent Film Festival.

The Calling – produced by the Ramsgate-based MEDB Films – will be shown at London's Curzon Mayfair Cinema, at 8.30pm on Thursday, April 15.

Tickets for the opening gala are £25, with proceeds donated to Macmillan Cancer Support, and can be purchased from www.filmaid.co.uk.

Restoration award

NOMINATIONS are now being invited for an award celebrating restoration projects in the south east.

Launched by Country Life in partnership with the estate agent Jackson-Stops & Staff, entries will be judged on areas such as sensitivity to the historic fabric, ingenuity of approach and fine craftsmanship.

The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, May 5, and entries can be submitted by post, email or by filling in an online form.

Visit www.countrylife.co.uk/restoration.

Talks will highlight Kent's energy crisis

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

NUCLEAR, wind and coal-fired power sources will all be discussed at Protect Kent's annual energy conference.

Former government advisor Sir Crispin Tickell will be the keynote speaker at the event, which will also be attended by representatives from EDF Energy, E.ON and Kent County Council.

Protect Kent deputy director Sean Furey said issues such as the future of Kingsnorth power station and the London Array wind farm project would also be discussed.

He said: "It's about the upcoming energy crisis we face in terms of making sure there's enough electricity on the grid to meet our needs.

"It's also about tackling climate change and reducing our carbon emissions, and doing that while protecting our local environment and landscape. It's a three-way dilemma.

"We'll be welcoming national and international experts to give their views, and then hopefully we'll know a clear way forward on what we should be focusing on and what we should be asking of our politicians."

The conference will take place at the sustainable Pines Calyx venue in St Margaret's Bay, near Dover, on Tuesday, April 20.



LOCAL IMPACT: Kingsnorth power station will be one of the issues under discussion

Other guest speakers at the event include E.ON's climate change head Tim Pyke, EDF Energy's Mike Dixon and the Carbon Free Group chairman Alistair Gould.

There will also be representatives from the Energy Savings Trust, Locate in Kent, and the Centre for Alternative Technology.

Protect Kent is the name for the county branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE), and last year it picked up a £150,000 prize as part of KOS Media's £1 million Business Challenge.

Mr Furey said: "It's really important that we're involving ourselves with climate change because it has huge potential impacts for Kent. There are some really big decisions that have to be made and it's important that everyone is aware of what's going on."

Admission for the conference is £20 for CPRE members and £100 for everybody else.

Registration begins at 9.30am for a 10am start, with the event due to finish at 1.45pm followed by a tour of the pine gardens.

Call 01303 815180 for more information.

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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Exciting times, but outcome is crucial

THE battle lines have been drawn and the buzz of the upcoming General Election is truly upon us.

Politicians have descended from every direction, promising the Earth and shamelessly running down their rivals in public.

Be in no doubt that it will continue until May 6, for this is shaping up to be the tightest and most exciting election of modern times. But whichever party wins, they will have to deal with the same mammoth task of getting the country out of an economic mess.

Even though we have our own political preferences, everyone has the same priority – seeing UK plc back on its feet.

No-one needs a politician to tell them unemployment is high and there isn't much spare money, because people are living that every day – even when the cameras are switched off and the politicians have gone home. It's how the Government, new or old, is going to sort it out that matters.

Pierced peacenik

THE Scary Guy has come to Kent to promote anti-bullying and world peace.

Surely the only reason he stops bullying is because nobody in their right mind would pick on a 20-stone man covered in tattoos, with multiple piercings to boot?

So kids, here's a way not to get bullied – gain weight, tattoo your body from head-to-toe and stick some metal through your nose.You could even get some gold front teeth while you're at it.

OPINION: An independent lady speaks

Alice Sakura Dartnell asks if independence is good for government



I DECIDED to stand as an independent because to be frank, like a lot of people, I do not trust the main political parties.

The latest media reports, such as the expenses scandal, MPs taking cash for "influencing" policies and MPs not declaring paid-for holidays in exchange for questions in Parliament, only highlight my suspicions.

However, due to the political system, statistically, independents don't fare as well as hoped. I started to wonder if this was a reflection on their ability.

When I was invited to attend a debate at the Houses of Parliament about the effectiveness of independent MPs, I jumped at the chance to clear my mind.

Now I can safely say to myself and the constituents why independent is best for all.

To make it a fair debate, two members of the panel were against the notion of independent MPs as being effective, and two were for. Professor Phil Cowley of Nottingham University and MP Chris Mullin (Labour, standing down this year) believed that independents had no place in Parliament.

Independent Prospective Parliamentary candidate (PPC) for Halifax, Diane Park (formally a Liberal Democrat member) and Dr Richard Taylor (a sitting independent MP) shared their experiences on why independents are what is needed to restore honest politics.

Mr Mullin made the weak argument that you can only achieve something as part of a party, but failed to give the audience a reason behind his thinking. Why does he think this? Because he knows that as part of a party, members will push through a bill because they are whipped by the party and that independents are just what it says on the tin, and cannot be pushed into something they do not agree with.

Prof Cowley gave an equally flimsy argument about the "ineffectiveness" of MPs, stating that independent MPs would be too localised, spending too much time in their constituency and therefore not enough time scrutinising Government.

I questioned Prof Cowley, saying that surely spending time in one's constituency is a positive, that it is part of the role as an MP and actually makes for better scrutiny of Government and national issues.

By looking closer into the issue at a local level, an MP will be able to decipher the causes and the solutions more efficiently, thus being able to scrutinise more thoroughly.

To my surprise, Prof Cowley agreed with me. Although I know I'm right, surely by agreeing with me he is contradicting his earlier comment of criticism.

Perhaps he is in favour of more independent MPs after all.

Dr Taylor summed it up for me by saying that there were two types of MPs – the "whens" and the "whys". By asking "when" you are showing your compliance and simply want to know when the policy is being implemented.

By doing so, you are sure to be promoted within your party soon.

However, by asking "why", you are not so willing, and are daring to question and scrutinise.

It is this category that the independents fall into, because they have no political career ladder to climb and can ask such audacious questions.

The Economist has predicted that twice as many independents will stand in the forthcoming general election (maybe up to 300) and the thought at the London School of Economics is that the number of independent MPs elected will increase this year.

I fail to see how being an MP of a political party gives an MP any more credibility and how you are more relatable to the people in your constituency, as 99 per cent of people are not members of a political party.

Someone at the debate pointed out that there are in fact more members of the RSPB than all public party members put together.

The debate certainly reassured my mind to the fact that an independent is a more effective and valuable MP, both locally and nationally, and the political parties know they are now in hot water this election, due to the public's wavering trust in them.

• ***Alice Sakura Dartnell, 23, is standing as an independent for the Gravesham seat at the forthcoming general election.***

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Election promises are meaningless rhetoric

Election propaganda appears misleading.

For instance;

- Immigration – there is talk of capping or restricting immigration, which is meaningless rhetoric when all European citizens have the right to arrive and work if and when they want.
- Sovereignty – the fact is we have already given our sovereignty to Brussels. To rectify it we would need to win a 75 per cent vote within the common market, even if we had the guts to table such an amendment.
- Jobs – the rhetoric suggests Government creates jobs which earn our living in the world. Unfortunately the Government does create jobs – too many of them – but these jobs are an overhead to GB Ltd. Those employed by Westminster do not produce or create wealth.
- The deficit – very few can understand or envisage the amount of debt GB Ltd now has. Most of the rhetoric centres on tax, growth and cuts. Cuts is a word used even though what is meant is avoiding one side's tax increase.
- The Government – The House of Commons and the Lords appears populated by those who have allowed Parliament to be brought into a situation of great disrepute.

Perhaps the only solution is to vote for a local individual who can be held to account rather than a party whose loyalty is to the whips.

Edward La Coste, Lamberhurst

Pothole signs served a useful purpose

It must be gratifying for the people of Kent to have a police force that is so much better-staffed than the rest of the UK.

They seemingly have enough personnel to spare someone to visit Ted Relf and persuade him to remove his sign warning people about potholes near his home.

Fortunately, I don't live in Kent. However, I live on the narrow road which is the entrance to Alton Towers theme park, which thousands of vehicles roar past every day.

It's a beautiful rural area in a hidden valley with lovely countryside and very narrow roads (I'm not supposed to tell outsiders that).

Authorities are struggling to cope with the repair of pot holes all the way along the 17 miles of the valley – just as they are in Kent – and many people's cars are being damaged. It is only a matter of time before someone is seriously hurt.

I would be delighted if public-spirited citizens were to erect warning signs here.

Nobody would be silly enough to complain and I hope the local force would have the sense to ignore it if they did.

Photographs show that Mr Relf's sign doesn't seriously protrude on to the footpath. In any case, why wasn't he advised, or even assisted, to mount it above head height?

I'll bet that by the time this letter is printed the holes in question will have been filled, and probably at the expense of not filling in other potholes that are not signed by Mr Relf or anyone else and represent a serious hazard to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

Daft I call it.

Mickey Walker, Alton, Staffs

The right man for the job

AS THE opinion polls show, the difficulty for the public is selecting the party that will best serve the country, when all their intentions seem to be good and, to the naked eye, fairly similar.

My firm belief is to vote for the individual. I think it is our duty to study the case history of each candidate in our area and decide which person will fight hardest for the community.

For this reason I want to send my strongest support for Peter Carroll in the forthcoming campaign in Maidstone and the Weald, and here is why: I have known him for two years and he is the toughest, straightest, most honourable and unflagging man I have ever met.

He never lies: he is generous to a fault, but keeps it secret. He will follow a project until it is accomplished, and has a startling success rate.

He is kind and courteous, and has no airs. He works like a demon at the speed of light. Nothing daunts him. He is accessible and friendly.

He loves what he does, and would be a formidable MP for his constituents. I commend him to voters of all persuasions.

In my opinion he is the man for Maidstone. Give him your vote: he won't let you down.

Joanna Lumley

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Foreign drivers should pay to use our roads

I read with great interest Mr R Staples' letter about charging foreign truckers and I totally agree with him.

I have been a tour manager for several years and take coach parties all over Europe. Like Mr Staples, I soon realised we were paying large sums to use foreign motorways, which necessitated queuing for hours at border crossings to buy the 'vignette'.

I wrote to my MP (Dr Steve Ladyman), suggesting we made foreign drivers pay towards the upkeep of our roads, especially in Kent, and I was assured the matter was top priority and would soon be implemented!

Nothing whatsoever has happened as far as I can see, and this seems to be the same as the promise to fine foreign drivers caught speeding after coming off ferries and shuttles.

I thought 24-hour courts were going to deal with the fines but again, nothing.

Some things are good, like giving foreign truckers stick-on mirrors to cover the blind spot on the right side window of their cabs, but is this still going on? On many occasions I have had to swerve suddenly when overtaking a foreign truck that pulls out, without any regard for other drivers.

The 'compulsory' speed limits seem to be another farce. I followed a Polish coach destined for England, Wales and Scotland up the M20 last year, which was travelling at more than 75mph (in torrential rain too).

Having been fined for so-called speeding in both Poland and the Czech Republic, I know UK-registered vehicles are targeted (usually on a Friday), by the corrupt local traffic police because they know we have money to pay the fine and that we assume the police are honest.

Not true unfortunately.

Paddy Earp, Broadstairs.

Letters continued on page 30

KOS

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BIRTHS

HESELDEN
Ruby Jane born on 29th March 2010, weighing 7lb 10oz. Daughter to Sue and Bob Heselden and sister to Joseph in Marden.

JONES
Samuel Thomas born on 10th March 2010, weighing 9lb 1oz. Son to Richard and Letitia Jones in Maidstone.

DEATHS

SUBRAMANIAM
Siva, passed away peacefully on 3rd April. Will be sadly missed by his family and friends.

Letters continued from page 29

Little help for parents of autistic children

I am the mother of a severely autistic son, Richard, and I know how difficult it is to get a placement in a decent school.

We struggled for years. He was too good for the training centre, so where else could he go?

Then we heard about the Rudolph Steiner Schools in Aberdeen.

Richard was 10 and was accepted for a trial period, but they were so pleased with his progress that he was there for five years until he was sadly sent home at 16.

I did my best to care for him for the next two years, but with very little sleep the strain became too much and I collapsed.

I was taken to hospital but, sadly, Richard was placed in a mental institution, where he suffered for 12 long years.

It was there that he developed epilepsy and to this day he is prescribed drugs for the problem.

The trouble is, the drugs often upset him, and it hurts me to see him like this.

Richard is happy where he is now and the staff are very good, but believe me there's little help for the parents of autistic children.

Name and address supplied

Vote to get Britain out of European control

Don't worry about County Hall's £100K fat cats.

Following the Lisbon Treaty – which Gordon Brown ratted on us by signing without our permission – and further integration into the seemingly-unstoppable European super-state, all local authorities as we know them will soon be gone.

Brussels plans to replace them with regional assemblies and large unitary authorities (several existing local authority areas lumped together), all controlled centrally with the help of hand-picked locals brainwashed by Euro doctrines.

One national Sunday newspaper reported how Brussels has redrawn the maps of the UK and Europe with places like Kent and Sussex now integrated into mainland Europe to form new European regions with a common regional control centre.

However, the party faithful to the European cause on the other side of the pond – as Brussels now calls the English Channel – get much higher perks, courtesy of British taxpayers, than our lot over here.

Our ancient forms of government at all levels are to be ripped up by mad men in Brussels, and the Labour Party, the Conservatives and Lib Dems just stand idly by and do absolutely nothing.

It is now up to the electorate to take back control of our destiny and in the coming elections vote for one of the five other political parties that say we must leave the EU now.

Roger Arnold, Herne Bay

It's helpful to hear an alternative opinion

I totally agree with John Gamut (KoS 4/04) that the KoS letters page is second to none.

Thank God there are no 'Have I just heard the first cuckoo' type letters and that they tend to be interesting, intelligent and informative. There are informed writers such as Terry Hudson, Michael K Baldwin, Dave Stewart and many others who we might not always agree with, but who make us think and open up debates.

After more than 40 years of writing letters to newspapers and never receiving any support, Mr Gamut's comments have made it all worthwhile as I try never to write anything from flights of fancy and wishful thinking, but from actual research into the information that's available, which obviously takes time.

As for the exchanges between Ray Duff and myself, after having laid out our respective agendas, time alone will tell who got it right or wrong.

In the meantime I'm sure there will be a lot of ducking and diving, massaging of figures, altering of positions etcetera until the 'global warmers' are brought back to how the world really works.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Hand over the cash to pay for Lift repairs

The news that Folkestone's Leas Lift is to be repaired and returned to service, hopefully in June, is great for all of us who have been campaigning for it to be rescued since last summer, as well as for those visiting the area.

Well done to the Folkestone Estate for taking the initiative.

One thing remains though, and that is a public announcement from Shepway District Council to confirm, without quibbling, that they will advance the money they put aside to cover the repairs.

Ray Duff, Folkestone.

All of the candidates deserve fair hearing

RE Tucker (Letters, April 4) asks why Vince Cable was included in the recent television debate between the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat economic spokesmen, when Mr Tucker thinks the Lib Dems are certain not to win the election.

A better question is why TV election debates are not going to include, besides the Liberal Democrats, spokespeople from other, respectable, minor parties.

Many people in Kent think the Conservatives, Labour and Lib Dems all now serve similar, failed, economic ideas that have led to financial crisis.

The unprecedented number of independent and minor party candidates seeking election is one symptom of this dissatisfaction.

Over the past couple of years, KOS Media has published very thoughtful letters from Green and UKIP supporters in particular that have offered real alternatives on economic issues. Moreover, in parts of Kent these parties received support in the European elections comparable to that for Labour or the Lib Dems.

True, UKIP and the Greens have no MPs yet. But then the Liberals have not had an MP in Kent since they lost Sevenoaks in 1924.

It appears likely that the national media will treat the general election largely as a three-way contest, but every constituency in Kent is going to have more than three candidates.

I hope your papers will keep up their pre-election record of giving a fair hearing to the views of all the democratic parties with candidates in Kent.

Frederic Stansfield, Canterbury



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Older students get excellence awards

MATURE students from across the south east were honoured at the 2010 Medals for Excellence Awards.

Among them were West Kent College English teacher Lesley Atkin, 57, and Canterbury-based woodwork tutor Jason Muteham, 41, who impressed the judges by furthering their skills through education.

Last week's ceremony was organised by City and Guilds.

Mrs Atkin and Mr Muteham are now in the running to win one of nine National Lion Awards, which will be announced later this year at a ceremony in London.

Events offer the right skills 4U

WANNABE plumbers and electricians can discover the apprenticeship opportunities available at two Kent open days this month.

The training provider JTL will be on hand at two upcoming Choice4U skills events, at the Swale Skills Centre on Tuesday, April 13, and at Maplesden Noakes School, Maidstone, on Wednesday, April 21.

Both open days, which have been organised by Kent County Council and Connexions, will run between 10am and 3.30pm.

A range of training, education and employment opportunities from other providers will also be featured at the events.

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TV show opens The Door for UCA students

TERRIFIED celebrities who took part in last weekend's new ITV1 game show had a group of talented Kent students to thank for their ordeal, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Boyzone member Keith Duffy and ex-EastEnder Dean Gaffney were among those who took part in The Door, which was created at Maidstone Studios with help from youngsters at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA).

The students' broadcast media course is primarily based at the studios so they have the chance to gain first-hand experience on television programmes filmed just metres away.

Filming

Senior lecturer Simon Welsford said: "I received a call from the head of Maidstone Studios asking if any of our students would like to help out on The Door, which was being filmed down the hall.

"Our students, of course, jumped at the chance to take part and leaped straight into six tiring days of filming.

"It is fantastic that just three weeks into the first semester of the new broadcast media foundation course our students are gaining work experience on a high-profile show. I knew they would get the chance to work on a series at some point, but I didn't expect it so soon.

"With more series coming into the studio in the next few weeks and months, it will be a very exciting time for the students."

Picture: ITV



IMPRESSED: The cast of ITV show The Door

UCA was formed out of the merger of the Kent Institute of Art and Design and its Surrey equivalent, and has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester.

Hosted by Chris Tarrant and Amanda Holden, The Door aired on ITV1 over two episodes during the Bank Holiday weekend. It saw six celebrity contestants battle it out in a series of tests designed to confuse, scare and disgust.

Tarrant said: "The scale of the set was absolutely massive and probably the biggest studio I've ever worked in. It was just extraordinary."

Holden added: "The Door is a huge production with massive movie-style sets that look amazing and authentic."

Picture: GENE NOCON



ICON: Zandra Rhodes

Chancellor Zandra reinstates old values

FASHION designer Zandra Rhodes is to be inaugurated as chancellor of the University for the Creative Arts.

The former Medway resident attended one of the university's founder institutions and will be designing her own ceremonial robes for the occasion on May 6.

She said: "My years at Medway shaped me into what I am today. I feel very honoured to have been chosen to be the first chancellor of the university and will endeavour to be inspirational to the students with some emphasis on the old values I was trained with."

Pull out your Review section opposite to read JobsforKent.co.uk, starting on page 65

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Senior & General Appointments	65-66
Public Sector Vacancies	67-69
Jobs for Kent	69-72
Public Notices	73

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For more information please contact Miss Kate Sheppard Home Manager on 01304 821 331or Email kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk

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With specific responsibility for preparing the statutory accounts for subsidiary companies you will assist with the production of the group statutory accounts and hence have a sound knowledge of Accounting Standards. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential.

Capital Accountant — **Ref: 692/E**
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Working within the Accounts Department, you will control all property and other capital accounting transactions, manage day to day cash flow and ensure correct accounting of interest and other loan payments. You will be responsible for producing monthly cash flow forecast reports and other key management information quickly and accurately to enable effective management decision making.

You will take a proactive part in the financial appraisal of new business including costs modelling for tenders, assessing and reporting on the impact on the budget and financial business plan. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential, as you will need to communicate with internal and external staff members and other agencies.

mcch also have a **Finance Officer** role based in Maidstone at £16,607, if you require further information on the post please contact us. **Ref: 699/E**

How to apply.....

For an application form and job description email **jobs@mcch.co.uk** or apply on line at **www.mcch.co.uk** alternatively call our recruitment line on **0845 600 1552**. Please quote ref.
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If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com Or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors 59-61 Sturry Road Canterbury, CT 1DR Or telephone for an application form on 01227 762 777 Please state which branch you are applying for.

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Care Workers - Full Time (mornings, evenings & alternate weekends) & Part Time (evenings or weekends) Location: Medway, Swale, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Beauty/Holistic Therapy
Ref: P0164

Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 pro rata
(dependant on qualifications and experience)
18.5 Hours per week
Medway

We are looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Child Care
Ref: P0323

Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Sociology
Ref: P0322

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The College is looking for an excellent candidate to participate in the delivery of A' level, YUP and Access to HE courses. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching / training in an FE environment and will have up to date and sound working knowledge of level 3 study. The successful candidate will have obtained a degree in Sociology and hold, or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Plumbing and Heating
Ref: P0691

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Lecturer in Construction
Ref: P0198

Salary: 28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway

The primary role of the post holder will be to teach on and participate in the development of construction related programmes across the Faculty. The appointee will contribute to the delivery of Entry/First/National/Higher National, Professional courses and short courses for industry as appropriate. The ability to teach in one of the main Construction /Civil Engineering disciplines would be advantageous. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Technician in Hair and Beauty
Ref: P0277

Salary: £14,588 - £17,000 per annum
Medway

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Closing date: Wednesday 21st April 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

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The Westlands School has an excellent reputation for high quality training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals.

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Closing date, Friday, 16 April 2010

The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post is subject to an enhanced CRB check

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne,
Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch,uk
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461
Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA

Sport England

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& DARTFORD AREAS

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website: **www.termtimeteachers.co.uk**
e-mail: **office@termtimeteachers.co.uk**

Quality Mark

CLASSROOM MANAGERS REQUIRED

Hours: 8.30am – 3.30pm, 32 hours a week, term-time only (39 weeks)
Salary: Kent Scheme 6 (£18,471 - £20,262 pro rata per annum)

We are looking for people with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with both students (aged 11-18) and staff, the ability to manage a variety of situations, be calm and work well under pressure.

The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Closing Date: Midday Friday 23rd April 2010
Interviews: To be confirmed

Pent Valley

achievement for all





Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

FEMALE WAKING NIGHT ATTENDANT

Salary: £14,772 – £16,686 plus one third night allowance
36.75 hours per week, Term Time Only

To be responsible for the supervision and care of the students at night.
There will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid. Due to the nature of the personal care being provided, Section 7 (2) (a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 23rd April 2010.
Interviews will be held on 4th May 2010.

All shortlisted applicants will be expected to visit the school before interview.
All appointments are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure CRB check.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

MidKent College

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009.

Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus.

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

Salary: c£46k

Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section.

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

Salary: c£46k

Comprising the A Level, Access and Higher Education curriculum areas, this Faculty is based at both our new Medway Campus and at the nearby University of Kent which accommodates most of the Access and HE provision. The successful candidate will have a strong track record of leading within these curriculum areas and in improving outcomes for students.

Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010

Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010

Benefits Include:
• Benenden Healthcare • Pension • Generous Annual Leave • Flexible working

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investors in People

Saint George's
Church of England School
Humanities College
Founded 1580

Meadow Road, Gravesend
Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

HLTA English & Humanities

KS6 Pts 17-20 £18,471 - £20,262
(pro-rata £15,586 - £17,098)
37 hours per week / Term Time Only + 5 days (39 weeks)

We are seeking a HLTA to support learning activities for English and Humanities classes and, within an agreed system of supervision, supervise whole classes during the short-term absence of teachers. Relevant qualifications would be beneficial.

The postholder must have experience of working with children of relevant age, must possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and have the ability to work as a member of a team and on their own initiative.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, celebrating diversity and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date : 16 April 2010

Spires

Twin Specialisms
Business & Enterprise and
Visual & Performing Arts

NOR 412

Sturry, Nr Canterbury Principal: Ian Johnson

Learning Support Assistant (English)

£14,169 - £16,064 pro rata 37 hours per week
8.30 – 4.30 Mon – Thur. 8.30 – 4.00 Fri Term Times plus inset
To commence June 2010

We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant, to support students in English.

The successful candidate will be energetic, a champion of children with an interest in English and experience of working with students with additional educational needs.

The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills.

Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

Further details and an application form are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com. Alternatively contact Clare Smith on 0800 028 1787 or by email on **clare.smithkent@hays.com** to request an application pack.

Closing date: 21st April 2010

Swale Borough Council
North Kent Coast

Personal Assistant to Chief Executive

Starting salary of £21,594 per annum
37 hours per week

Swale Borough Council is looking to recruit a highly skilled and motivated individual to provide high level personal assistant, administrative and research services to support the Chief Executive. Applicants should be versatile and be capable of working in a fast-paced environment. The successful candidate will have excellent diary management and organisational skills and be able to adapt quickly and effectively to new challenges. It is important that candidates are able to demonstrate confidence and assertiveness in their dealings with colleagues, elected members and customers. Good interpersonal skills are also essential in such a high profile work area.

The post will need to be filled from mid June to allow a hand over period. For an informal discussion please call Sue Parry on 01795 417394.

In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, Local Government final salary pension scheme and flexi time working for most posts.

For further information and an application form contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone Sittingbourne (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting reference 200CE1.

E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: http://jobs.swale.gov.uk

Closing date: 20 April 2010
Interviews: w/c 3 May 2010

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

JobsforKent.co.uk

Accountancy

Financial Accountant

Maidstone
Salary: £33,000
it will never be just another job mcch is a charitable organisation committed to designing and delivering housing and support services, based on the unique qualities of each individual, to people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health needs. In order to support our growing business we are seeking to appoint two qualified accountants as part of an enthusiastic and motivated team in addition to a Finance Officer. Financial Accountant Ref: 691/E £33,000 Maidstone Working as part of a very busy Accounts team, you will be responsible for five staff in the payments and cashier sections of the department. You will manage the Group's supplies, services and cashiering functions, ensuring that financial records are continually accurate. You will ensure that appropriate control procedures are in place for cash handling and review compliance of these. With specific responsibility for preparing the statutory accounts for subsidiary companies you will assist with the production of the group statutory accounts and hence have a sound knowledge of Accounting Standards. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential. For an application form and job description email jobs@mcch.co.uk or apply on line at www.mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.
To apply/more information:
MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 691/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

Capital Accountant

Maidstone
Salary: £33,000
it will never be just another job mcch is a charitable organisation committed to designing and delivering housing and support services, based on the unique qualities of each individual, to people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health needs. In order to support our growing business we are seeking to appoint two qualified accountants as part of an enthusiastic and motivated team in addition to a Finance Officer. Capital Accountant Ref: 692/E £33,000 Maidstone Working within the Accounts Department, you will control all property and other capital accounting transactions, manage day to day cash f low and ensure correct accounting of interest and other loan payments. You will be responsible for producing monthly cash flow forecast reports and other key management information quickly and accurately to enable effective management decision making. You will take a proactive part in the financial appraisal of new business including costs modelling for tenders, assessing and reporting on the impact on the budget and financial business plan. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential, as you will need to communicate with internal and external staff members and other agencies. For an application form and job description email jobs@mcch.co.uk or apply on line at www.mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.
To apply/more information:
MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 692/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

Finance Officer

Maidstone
Salary: £16,607
it will never be just another job mcch is a charitable organisation committed to designing and delivering housing and support services, based on the unique qualities of each individual, to people with learning disabilities, autism or mental health needs. mcch have a Finance Officer role based in Maidstone at £16,607, if you require further information on the post please contact us. Ref: 699/E Working within a very busy Accounts Department, you will be responsible for processing daily transactions relating to all bank accounts within the group and reconciling these regularly. You will be required to produce weekly reports and monthly analysis of bank transactions. With a desire to foster effective working relationships with internal and external users you will have a keen eye for detail and accuracy. For an application form and job description email jobs@mcch.co.uk or apply on line at www.mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.
To apply/more information:
MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 699/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

Accounts Assistant

Ramsgate
Salary: Salary negotiable depending on experience
A flexible accounts person is required, particularly experienced in all aspects of purchase ledger including invoice processing, reconciling statements, weekly payments, with experience on computerised accounting system. Monday to Friday 9.00am until 5.30pm. Please send CV's to Alistair Mackay-Miller, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP or by e-mail. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.
To apply/more information:
Alistair Mackay-Miller
Piper Windows
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email ron@piperwindows.co.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Personal Assistant to Chief Executive

Sittingbourne
Salary: £21,594 per annum
Closing Date: 20 April 2010
Personal Assistant to Chief Executive Starting salary of £21,594 per annum 37 hours per week Swale Borough Council is looking to recruit a highly skilled and motivated individual to provide high level personal assistant, administrative and research services to support the Chief Executive. Applicants should be versatile and be capable of working in a fast-paced environment. The successful candidate will have excellent diary management and organisational skills and be able to adapt quickly and effectively to new challenges. It is important that candidates are able to demonstrate confidence and assertiveness in their dealings with colleagues, elected members and customers. Good interpersonal skills are also essential in such a high profile work area. The post will need to be filled from mid June to allow a hand over period. For an informal discussion please call Sue Parry on 01795 417394. In addition to salary, we can offer you a generous annual leave allowance, paid bank holidays, Local Government final salary pension scheme and flexi time working for most posts. For further information and an application form contact Human Resources, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT. Telephone Sittingbourne (01795) 417414 (24 hour voice mail) quoting reference 200CE1. E-Mail: hr@swale.gov.uk Website: http://jobs. swale.gov.uk Interviews: w/c 3 May 2010.
To apply/more information:
Swale Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 417414
Email hr@swale.gov.uk

PA/Secretary

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 16th April 2010
PA/Secretary. An opportunity has arisen for a motivated PA/Secretary to join our busy Management Team at our Canterbury, Head Office. Initially it is anticipated the position will be for a minimum period of 6 months, but may well lead to a full time appointment. Candidates should have a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word/Excel and Outlook and be a proficient touch typist, together with the ability to work on your own initiative at Senior Management level. To apply please submit your CV and covering letter to: Maxine Brown, Cardy Construction Ltd, The Wincheap Estate, Maynard Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3RH. Alternatively email to mbrown@cardygroup.co.uk Applications to be received by 16th April 2010.
To apply/more information:
Cardy Construction Limited
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mbrown@cardygroup.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Assistant Chef

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Assistant Chef required for busy country pub with good reputation for fine food. Apply to Eric or Helen (between 9 & 12 noon) Tel: 01303 844663.
To apply/more information:
Jack Daw Inn
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 844663
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Part time Cook

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Domestic Help 20 hours per week and also a Part time Cook 12 hours per week required at Care Home in Westgate on Sea. For more information please contact Debbie or Diane Tel: 01843 831491.
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

CHEF

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
A keen enthusiastic CHEF required at busy caf®¶ restaurant at Ramsgate seafront For more information please call Heather 07966 295070 or Andy 07796 858612 or email: cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Belgian Cafe
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email cgoodwin2010@hotmail.co.uk

Child Care

Level II Nursery Nurse

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Nursery Vacancies Dawn to Dusk Day Nursery Swanley Ltd a well established private company and also operating an Out of School Club with a further branch in Maidstone, have the following vacancies. Level II Nursery Nurse We are looking for someone with a positive attitude who can work well as part of a team. Full support for training towards level III, will be given - 40hrs a week. After School Club Assistant - P/t This position is to work in our Duskies Schools Out Club. Appropriate experience is required, a play work certificate preferred but not essential as training can be given. This is a part time position, Monday - Friday - Hours to be agreed. To arrange an interview please telephone Janice Elliott on 01322 660330.
To apply/more information:
Dawn to Dusk Day Nurseries
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 660330
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

After School Club Assistant

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Nursery Vacancies Dawn to Dusk Day Nursery Swanley Ltd a well established private company and also operating an Out of School Club with a further branch in Maidstone, have the following vacancies. Level II Nursery Nurse We are looking for someone with a positive attitude who can work well as part of a team. Full support for training towards level III, will be given - 40hrs a week. After School Club Assistant - P/t This position is to work in our Duskies Schools Out Club. Appropriate experience is required, a play work certificate preferred but not essential as training can be given. This is a part time position, Monday - Friday - Hours to be agreed. To arrange an interview please telephone Janice Elliott on 01322 660330.
To apply/more information:
Dawn to Dusk Day Nurseries
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01322 660330
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

Jet Washing

Sidcup
Salary: TBA
Jet Washing person required for brickwork company based in Sidcup. Must have clean driving licence as van will be supplied. Must be reliable and hard working. Please call on 07538 064622.
To apply/more information:
JKS Brickwork Contractors Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07538 064622
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

CLAIMS CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE MANAGER

Folkestone
Salary: Competitive salary + excellent benefits
Closing Date: 19 April 2010
CLAIMS CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE MANAGER Competitive salary + excellent benefits Folkestone/Thanet Delivering first-class service is second nature at Saga. Whenever our customers make a motor insurance claim, we want them to find the experience as efficient as possible. That's where you come in. Splitting your time between our Folkestone and Thanet sites, you'll manage the performance of around 150 staff. That means driving continuous improvement by instilling best practice, setting targets and shaping strategies. And fostering a culture where teams feel empowered and motivated. To meet the challenge, you'll be a dynamic people manager who inspires others at all levels. Able to juggle priorities and meet deadlines, your superb project management skills will help you turn ambitious ideas into everyday processes. If you have what it takes, the career opportunities are outstanding in a fast-moving environment that's grown by over 50% in the last 18 months. Ready for action? To apply, please send your CV and covering letter including current salary to Alice Forsyth, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or human.resources@saga.co.uk Please quote reference SVS385/KOS. saga.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SVS385/KOS
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Domestic

Cleaners

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Home Cleaning Company requires FULL TIME STAFF Tonbridge Based Company Mon-Fri 7.45am-4.15pm No Bank Holidays, Weekends or Evenings Drivers only 01732 359500.

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Be the first to receive the latest Kent Jobs
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To apply/more information:
Merry Maid
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 359500
Email merrymaidsales@btconnect.com

Domestic Help

Thanet
Salary: TBA
Domestic Help 20 hours per week and also a Part time Cook 12 hours per week required at Care Home in Westgate on Sea. For more information please contact Debbie or Diane Tel: 01843 831491.
To apply/more information:
Gordon Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 831491
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

CLEANERS

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
CLEANERS needed, Canterbury, Wed & Fri, 15:30 - 17:30. For details please call 01622 882492.
To apply/more information:
Minster Cleaning Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 882492

Domestic Trades

EA Electrical

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
EA Electrical Electrical contractor requires Fire Alarm Test Engineer preferably with electrical background to undertake FA / EML & door entry testing in and around Folkestone. Electrical Manager/ess required to oversee planned and reactive maintenance contract. 17th edition electricians required for works in occupied properties. For more information please email to Matthew Hardwick at: matthew@ea-witham.co.uk
To apply/more information:
E A Group of Companies
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email matthew@ea-witham.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Inclusion Manger

Gravesend
Salary: £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa
Closing Date: 20th April 2010 Inclusion Manger Required for April 2010 37 hour per week (full time) 40 weeks per year (term time plus 2 weeks) KCC Salary Scheme 7 (points 20-24) £20,262 to £23,053 pa Pro rata to £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa Lunch duty assistance 30 mins per day Meetings as and when required after school. We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated member of staff to the new permanent position of Inclusion Manager as part of the Beehive, Learning Support staff structure. You will be the key administrative, well-fare and progress development support for students with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD), line managing a SEBD LSA and be directly line managed by our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion. The successful applicant must: _ Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence to communicate effectively in sometimes challenging situations; _ be able to liaise and communicate confidently with outside agencies, parents, staff and students; _ be confident to work independently and multi-task; _ have a cheerful disposition, positive outlook, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team _Be a creative worker to proactively develop strategies to support SEBD students; _lead and manage all aspects of monitoring progress using data effectively and implement strategies to ensure achievement of identified SEBD students; _be a positive role model supporting students with SEBD issues; _be highly organised and able to manage your time well, when juggling a range of tasks. After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'. All staff will be given a laptop in the new school, and we have a generous CPD commitment to support staff improving their skills across a range of aspects. We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. A purpose built inclusion area is currently being designed to replace our existing Beehive Unit. CV's without an application form will not be accepted. You will be expected to submit a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position with your application, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the Inclusion structure then we want you to apply. If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview. kent.sch.uk The school is very conveniently located _ 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy.
To apply/more information:
Thames View Junior School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Graduate Trainee Leisure and Tourism

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday, 16 April 2010
WITH EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS Graduate Trainee _ Leisure and Tourism We have a vacancy for a graduate who would like to undertake school-based teacher training whilst receiving financial support. Professional help is given to successful applicants to enable them to begin teaching classes at the earliest appropriate opportunity. Applications are invited from graduates who are interested in teaching Leisure and Tourism. The Westlands School has an excellent reputation for high quality training within a friendly and supportive environment. This is an excellent opportunity to acquire practical teaching experience under the guidance of highly skilled and dedicated professionals. You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school. Please note, we cannot accept CVs without an application form. Closing date, Friday, 16 April 2010. The Westlands School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post subject to an enhanced CRB check Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF www.westlands.kent.sch.uk Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461 Email: swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA.
To apply/more information:
Westlands School (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 477475
Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Vacancies filled fast online with
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

HLTA English and Humanities

Gravesend
Salary: £15,586 - £17,098 pro rata
Closing Date: 16 April 2010
Saint George's Church of England School Humanities College Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 561536 HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College 11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School HLTA English & Humanities KS6 Pts 17-20 £18,471 - £20,262 (pro-rata £15,586 - £17,098) 37 hours per week / Term Time Only + 5 days (39 weeks). We are seeking a HLTA to support learning activities for English and Humanities classes and, within an agreed system of supervision, supervise whole classes during the short-term absence of teachers. Relevant qualifications would be beneficial. The postholder must have experience of working with children of relevant age, must possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and have the ability to work as a member of a team and on their own initiative. Saint George's C of E School is committed promoting equality of opportunity, celebrating diversity and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks. Contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
St George's CoE School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01474 533082
Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Learning Support Assistant (English)

Canterbury
Salary: £14,169 - £16,064 pro rata
Closing Date: 21st April 2010 Twin Specialisms Business & Enterprise and Visual & Performing Arts NOR 400 Sturry, Nr Canterbury Principal: Ian Johnson Learning Support Assistant (English) £14,169 - £16,064 pro rata 37 hours per week 8.30 _ 4.30 Mon _ Thur. 8.30 _ 4.00 Fri Term Times plus inset To commence June 2010 We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant, to support students in English. The successful candidate will be energetic, a champion of children with an interest in English and experience of working with students with additional educational needs. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills. Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expect all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate child protection screening including checks with previous employers and the Criminal Records Bureau. Further details and an application form are available on our website www.spiresacademy.com. Alternatively contact Clare Smith on 0800 028 1787 or by email on clare.smithkent@hays.com to request an application pack. **To apply/more information:**
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0800 028 1787
Email clare.smithkent@hays.com

Lecturer in Beauty/ Holistic Therapy

Medway
Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 21st April 2010
Lecturer in Beauty/Holistic Therapy Ref: P0164 Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) 18.5 Hours per week Medway. We are looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0164
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Child Care

Medway
Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 21st April 2010
Lecturer in Child Care Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous. MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Sociology

Medway
Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 21st April 2010
Lecturer in Sociology Ref: P0322 Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway/Maidstone The College is looking for an excellent candidate to participate in the delivery of A' level, YUP and Access to HE courses. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching / training in an FE environment and will have up to date and sound working knowledge of level 3 study. The successful candidate will have obtained a degree in Sociology and hold, or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0322
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Plumbing and Heating

Medway
Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
Lecturer in Plumbing and Heating Ref: P0691 Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to deliver Plumbing, Heating and Gas programmes across a range of qualifications including the new Diplomas. The successful candidate will show a sound commitment to improving classroom delivery, classroom management and Health and Safety. Good IT Skills and the ability to work within a team are essential. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0691
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Lecturer in Construction

Medway
Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 21st April 2010
Lecturer in Construction Ref: P0198 Salary: 28,463 - £32,251 per annum (dependant on qualifications and experience) Medway The primary role of the post holder will be to teach on and participate in the development of construction related programmes across the Faculty. The appointee will contribute to the delivery of Entry/First/National/Higher National, Professional courses and short courses for industry as appropriate. The ability to teach in one of the main Construction /Civil Engineering disciplines would be advantageous. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0198
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Technician in Hair and Beauty

Medway
Salary: £14,588 - £17,000 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 21st April 2010
Technician in Hair and Beauty Ref: P0277 Salary: £14,588 - £17,000 per annum Medway We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous. MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: P0277
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications @midkent.ac.uk

Part-time Teacher of Music

Aylesford
Salary: MPS
Closing Date: 19/04/2010
To cover terms 5 and 6 Aylesford School _ Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School _ Sports College we can offer you:- _ A brand new school. _ Outstanding new facilities in all areas. _ A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. _ A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. _ A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- _ Can motivate students

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JobsforKent.co.uk

through the curriculum. _ Has the desire to make the difference. _ Is focussed on developing their career further. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna on 01622 717341 or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

CLASSROOM MANAGERS

Folkestone
Salary: £18,471 - £20,262 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Midday Friday 23rd April 2010
CLASSROOM MANAGERS REQUIRED Hours: 8.30am _ 3.30pm, 32 hours a week, term-time only (39 weeks) Salary: Kent Scheme 6 (£18,471 - £20,262 pro rata per annum) We are looking for people with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with both students (aged 11-18) and staff, the ability to manage a variety of situations, be calm and work well under pressure. The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. For an application form please contact: Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED. Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 Interviews: To be confirmed.
To apply/more information:
Pent Vally Tech
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Email samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

Medway
Salary: c£46k
Closing Date: Thursday 29 April 2010
MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009. Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus. Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering Salary: c£46k Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section. Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010 Benefits Include: _ Benenden Healthcare _ Pension _ Generous Annual Leave _ Flexible working MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

Medway
Salary: c£46k
Closing Date: Thursday 29 April 2010
MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009. Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies Salary: c£46k Comprising the A Level, Access and Higher Education curriculum areas, this Faculty is based at both our new Medway Campus and at the nearby University of Kent which accommodates most of the Access and HE provision. The successful candidate will have a strong track record of leading within these curriculum areas and in improving outcomes for students. Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010 Benefits Include: _ Benenden Healthcare _ Pension _ Generous Annual Leave _ Flexible working MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

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To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Engineers

Kent
Salary: $100k - 200k
Contract based in Warri, Nigeria Pentro Drilling is looking for qualified candidates from various engineering field to work towards to fulfillment of our ongoing project Pentro Drilling is looking for Engineering & Aviation Applications of a highly skilled candidate who wants to get in on the ground floor of a very promising opportunity. The Engineering Applications will provide leadership to Engineering team and act in a lead engineer capacity. The Engineers will be responsible for making design recommendations based on customer requirements, as well as configuring and managing the assembly and testing of systems. Responsibilities: _ Manage the daily activities of the Engineering function including prioritizing tasks, managing various projects and checking subordinate's work _ Make recommendations for modifications of existing product catalog or for completely new designs _ Utilize Solidworks to develop design schematics to be shared with customers, R&D and Manufacturing _ Assemble and test configurations to meet customer needs _ Carrying out quality control checks as defined on quality plans as directed by construction superintendent. Qualifications: _ Bachelor's degree in Engineering strongly preferred. _ 3+ years in a Engineering role and leadership responsibilities _ Professional communication skills _ Ability to discuss and solve complex problems with manufacturing departments, contractors, suppliers and customers _ Excellent technical skills _ Some background in extrusions, _ Time and commitment to devote to a startup in high growth phase Benefits: Competitive base salary along with equity incentive participation, bonus plan and benefits including health care.
To apply/more information:
Tony Ayo
Pentro Drilling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 002348039736271
Email careers@pentrodrilling.com

Management, Senior Positions

QUALITY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER

Medway
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 14th April 2010
IPS INTERNATIONAL Ltd QUALITY AND SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT MANAGER IPS International is a successful and expanding training business based in Rochester. We train in the fields of Engineering and Manufacturing, Social Care, Management and Business Services. Funded training is provided for apprentices and adults together with commercial training in all areas of the business. This new role involves the development and co-ordination of quality and systems improvement throughout the business and the introduction of performance measures to meet the requirements of Government funding, Ofsted and the marketplace. Initially the role will include: _ Reviewing and updating existing policies and procedures. _ Developing new policies and procedures. _ Conducting internal audits. _ Co-ordinating the production of Self Assessment Reports. _ Networking with other training providers on quality issues. _ Co-ordinating the development of Safeguarding policies. _ Communicating with, and training, IPS staff and associates. The successful applicant will work closely with the Senior Management Team to further develop the necessary quality expertise and will be capable of drafting accurate and precise documents and working collaboratively. Good IT skills will be required as will self motivation and the ability to maintain accurate and timely records. To apply, please provide a CV plus accompanying letter explaining your suitability for the role to Michael Henderson at the address below by the closing date of 14th April 2010. IPS is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applicants from all sectors of the community, including minority groups, and we are committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults IPS International Ltd Sir Thomas Longley Road Medway City Estate, Rochester Kent, ME2 4DU E: theoffice@IPS-International.com
To apply/more information:
IPS International Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email theoffice@IPS-International.com

Claims Customer Experience Manager

Folkestone
Salary: Competitive salary + excellent benefits
Closing Date: 19 April 2010
Delivering first-class service is second nature at Saga. Whenever our customers make a motor insurance claim, we want them to find the experience as efficient as possible. That's where you come in. Splitting your time between our Folkestone and Thanet sites, you'll manage the performance of around 150 staff. That means driving continuous improvement by instilling best practice, setting targets and shaping strategies. And fostering a culture where teams feel empowered and motivated. To meet the challenge, you'll be a dynamic people manager who inspires others at all levels. Able to juggle priorities and meet deadlines, your superb project management skills will help you turn ambitious ideas into everyday processes. If you have what it takes, the career opportunities are outstanding in a fast-moving environment that's grown by over 50% in the last 18 months. Ready for action? To apply, please send your CV and covering letter including current salary to contacts below. Folkestone and Thanet areas.
To apply/more information:
Alice Forsyth
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SVS385/KOS
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Marketing, Advertising

Marketing Managers

Folkestone
Salary: Competitive salaries + excellent benefits
Permanent and Fixed Term Opportunities Be inspired. First of all, by a leading direct marketing brand that's driven by imaginative thinking, new ideas and innovation. A team of people who work together to create and deliver fresh marketing solutions and generate outstanding results. Secondly, our superb location. You'll be based in a tranquil open parkland setting, right next to the sea. And finally, by this exciting opportunity to raise your career profile with a hugely successful brand which incorporates Personal Finance and Insurance. In return for your hard work, there's excellent support, training and development, not to mention superb benefits including private healthcare, pension scheme, cr®®che, social club and discounts on insurance products, holidays and flights for you and your relatives. You'll have a relevant professional qualification and experience of direct marketing gained in either financial services or insurance. In addition, you'll also have experience of managing a busy team. So if you're brimming with ideas and have a 'right first time' approach, then we'd like to hear from you. To apply, please write enclosing your CV and current remuneration details to Sally-Jane Plenge, Senior HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail human.resources@saga.co.uk Please quote reference SPF380/JFK.
To apply/more information:
Sally-Jane Plenge
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SPF380/JFK
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Marketing Executive - Saga Personal Finance

Ashford
Salary: £16,874 - £21,844 + excellent benefits
Here's your chance to quickly grow your skills and experience. That's because as part of the small and energetic team at Saga Personal Finance, you'll be involved with marketing campaigns from planning right through to delivery and analysis. So it's definitely a busy role; in fact, no two days will be the same. But that's the way you like it. What's more, you love co-ordinating several projects at the same time, meeting tight deadlines and keeping quality standards high in everything you do. We want you to bring fresh and imaginative ideas _ and enjoy seeing them come to fruition. Saga Personal Finance is a small but very ambitious division within the Saga Group, so there's a real chance for you to make a visible impact on the success of the business. If you can add a positive attitude, a team-focused approach and lots of enthusiasm too, you'll fit right in with our friendly team. Liaising with colleagues in other parts of the organisation is an important part of the job, so excellent communication skills and an outgoing personality are both essential, as is a knowledge of the financial services industry. If you are of graduate calibre (ideally with a degree or equivalent in marketing) with some solid marketing experience, then we're waiting to hear from you! To apply, please send your CV and covering letter including current salary to Sally-Jane Plenge, Senior HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or human.resources@saga.co.uk Please quote reference SPF374/JFK.
To apply/more information:
Sally-Jane Plenge
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SPF374/JFK.
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Senior Marketing Executive

Folkestone
Salary: Competitive salary + excellent benefits
Closing Date: 16 April 2010
Few roles give you the chance to take full ownership of a marketing plan from development to delivery. Fewer still provide the opportunity to work with a leading brand in a dynamic, fast-moving environment. At Saga, we can offer you both. Developing collateral, driving campaigns and monitoring results, you'll operate across the full range of print and web-based marketing channels _ and through the complete lifecycle. We're looking for someone who thrives on challenge and change. Of graduate calibre, you'll already have some impressive experience under your belt. This will probably be in the banking or financial insurance sectors, with an emphasis on direct and online marketing. Analytical, customer focused and results-driven, you'll also bring us the communication skills that help you liaise fluently with stakeholders at all levels - as well as with agencies, suppliers and mailing houses. To apply, please write enclosing your CV and current remuneration details to Sally-Jane Plenge, Senior HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail human.resources@ saga.co.uk Please quote reference SPF382 in your application. saga.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Sally-Jane Plenge
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SPF382
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Coach Body and Paint Repairs Technician

Medway
Salary: TBA
Coach Body and Paint Repairs Technician Due to the pending retirement of our current technician we are looking for a permanent, full time technician who is reliable, has initiative and has a flexible approach to work to join our busy Engineering Department. This role will include- Body repairs (filling/ reshaping etc.) Panel work Paint refinishing (able to apply 2 pack paints) Welding Steel repairs/ fabrication. Previous experience in this field is essential and salary dependant on your level of experience. Please email your cv to sarah.hackett@thekingsferry.co.uk or post to The Travel Centre, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 6HW.
To apply/more information:
Kings Ferry
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email sarah.hackett@thekingsferry.co.uk

Senior Vehicle Technician

Ashford
Salary: £22-£25k
We are a new company who will be opening our Ashford workshop at the end of May and we are looking for two key people to grow with us. Senior Vehicle Technician (Foreman elect) Professional and ambitious technician. The successful candidate will be fully skilled, have a wide and deep knowledge of current vehicles, proven diagnostic ability, and be able to deliver consistently high quality results. MOT tester status is essential. Permanent position Initially £22-£25k + profit share ote 30k+ Vehicle Technician Fully skilled with good knowledge of current vehicles, you must be able to work efficiently and effectively as part of our small team. MOT tester status would be an advantage. Permanent position Initially £18-£21k + profit share ote £26k+ Both successful candidates have the opportunity to advance within the company To apply, please forward your CV via email to David Ramsey: mail@aaashford.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Advanced Automotive Ashford LLP
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mail@aaashford.co.uk

Vehicle Technician

Ashford
Salary: £18-£21k
We are a new company who will be opening our Ashford workshop at the end of May and we are looking for two key people to grow with us. Senior Vehicle Technician (Foreman elect) Professional and ambitious technician. The successful candidate will be fully skilled, have a wide and deep knowledge of current vehicles, proven diagnostic ability, and be able to deliver consistently high quality results. MOT tester status is essential. Permanent position Initially £22-£25k + profit share ote 30k+ Vehicle Technician Fully skilled with good knowledge of current vehicles, you must be able to work efficiently and effectively as part of our small team. MOT tester status would be an advantage. Permanent position Initially £18-£21k + profit share ote £26k+ Both successful candidates have the opportunity to advance within the company To apply, please forward your CV via email to David Ramsey: mail@aaashford.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Advanced Automotive Ashford LLP
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mail@aaashford.co.uk

Skilled Fiat Technician

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
ATA level 2 or above Fiat experience/training would be advantageous Please telephone 01795 423815 For further details.
To apply/more information:
JG Burgess
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Not for profit, Charities

VOLUNTEER FOR HOME-START THANET

Thanet
Salary: NA
PUT YOUR HAND UP AND VOLUNTEER FOR HOME-START THANET Use your skills and experience as a parent to support another parent who is finding life difficult. For giving a few hours of your time a week we offer FREE and on-going training plus out of pocket expenses. Make a real difference to a family's life. To find out more call 01843 866344 Our next course starts on Monday 10th May 2010.
To apply/more information:
Homestart - Broadstairs
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 866344
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Club Play Workers

Thanet
Salary: Zero Hours
Closing Date: 23/04/10
Club Play Workers _ Thanet & Herne Bay East Kent Mencap operates several youth and holiday clubs for disabled young people across the area. We are looking to recruit one more play leader and several play workers on a sessional basis for out of school activity clubs. Play Club Leader - YPL0001 Salary Scale £8.87 - £9.25 per hour subject to

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experience and qualifications Play Club Workers - YPL0002 Salary Scale £4.07 _ £8.49 per hour subject to experience and qualifications. These posts are subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. Being holders of the Positive about Disabled People award, disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance. Applications must be via application form. For further information or to request an application form please contact: Lynda Salisbury Office Co-ordinator 01843 224482 Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: YPL0001 & YPW0002
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, and Experience in the role above. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 Subject to satisfactory CRB Check.
To apply/more information:
Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk

SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £15,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now requirethe following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 STROOD SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: KOS
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £13,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now requirethe following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 STROOD SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS

Sittingbourne
Salary: £13,250
ACH is a fast-growing organisation, developing new, highquality residential homes for adults with Learning Disabilities. Due to our continued growth we now requirethe following staff to complement our team at our homes in BOBBING AND STROOD www.achuk.com BOBBING SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 NIGHT SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £13,250 STROOD SENIOR SUPPORT WORKERS Salary from £15,250 For an application pack please visit our website at www.achuk.com Alternatively e-mail louise.burrows@achuk.com or contact Human Resources on 0208 502 8849.
To apply/more information:
ACH Care Homes Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 502 8849
Email louise.burrows@achuk.com

Care Staff

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home A busy family run home require dedicated Care Staff - Full time 12 hour shifts Experience not essential as training provided Pay according to experience and qualifications also Domestic/Cleaners - Full time Please call Amanda 01227 721527.
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Night Staff

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
Due to expansion Night Staff required for busy Residential home good rates of pay and bonus NVQ training available. Please ring Debbie Or Karen on 01732 822215.
To apply/more information:
Holywell Park Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 822215
Email debbieholywell@aol.com

RMN Unit Manager

Dover
Salary: TBA
RMN Unit Manager Applecroft Care Home LTD are currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated RMN to manage their 15 bedded Dementia unit in River, Dover. We are looking for a Unit Manager who has experience of working with elderly residents with Dementia and challenging behaviour. This is an exciting opportunity to use your nursing/managerial skills within a supportive and flexible team environment. Salary negotiable depending on experience with the opportunity for promotion within the company. The successful applicant must have a valid NMC PIN. For more information please contact Miss Kate Sheppard Home Manager on 01304 821 331or Email kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Applecroft Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 821331
Email kate@abbeyhealthcare.org.uk

Senior Healthcare Assistants

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
CHARING HEALTHCARE are looking to recruit Senior Healthcare Assistants for Hillbeck Care Home in Maidstone. Full and part time positions available for both day and night shifts. Must have experience of working in an EMI home. Post subject to enhanced CRB disclosure. For further details and an informal discussion please call Carol Rumbold on 01622 737847.
To apply/more information:
Charing Healthcare
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 737847
Email applications @jobsforkent.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales People

Kent
Salary: TBA
Black Tie Foods Ltd Sales People required No experience necessary. Full training and vehicle provided. Call 01732 760484.
To apply/more information:
Black Tie Foods Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 760484
Email blacktie@btconnect.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
We currently have the following vacancies: ASSISTANT MANAGER _ SEVENOAKS HOME MANAGER _ BLUEWATER MANAGER _ ORPINGTON Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment. If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to: Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley, 62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY Region7. careers@lauraashley.com Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer www.lauraashley.com
To apply/more information:
Laura Ashley
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

HOME MANAGER

Dartford
Salary: TBA
We currently have the following vacancies: ASSISTANT MANAGER _ SEVENOAKS HOME MANAGER _ BLUEWATER MANAGER _ ORPINGTON Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment. If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to: Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley, 62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY Region7.careers@lauraashley.com Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer www.lauraashley.com
To apply/more information:
Laura Ashley
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

MANAGER

Orpington
Salary: TBA
We currently have the following vacancies: ASSISTANT MANAGER _ SEVENOAKS HOME MANAGER _ BLUEWATER MANAGER _ ORPINGTON Applicants will need to have a proven track record in either a retail or sales environment. If you are interested in applying for any of the above positions send your CV and covering letter to: Andrea Wiltshire, Laura Ashley, 62 High Street, Bromley, Kent, BR1 1EY Region7.careers@lauraashley.com Laura Ashley is an equal opportunities employer www.lauraashley.com
To apply/more information:
Laura Ashley
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Region7.careers@lauraashley.com

BATHROOM DESIGNER

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
BATHROOM DESIGNER & TRAINEE BATHROOM DESIGNER Our showroom in Tunbridge Wells requires showroom based innovative, yet practical design/sales consultants. You will: Help customers explore their needs, stimulate their imagination and create bathrooms that meet their every expectation. You need: To be a good communicator. To have excellent drawing skills. To work under pressure and unsupervised. To attend site visits. To work flexibly. To have a current driving licence. We offer: A good salary package plus commission Extensive training and an opportunity to excel at the highest level in bathroom design. Applications in writing marked Private & Confidential to: Colin Payne Ripples 12 Union Square Eridge Road Tunbridge Wells TN4 8HE cpayne@ripples.ltd.uk www.ripples.ltd.uk
To apply/more information:
Ripples Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email cpayne@ripples.ltd.uk

SALES CONSULTANT

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: ote £16,000
SALES CONSULTANT ote £16,000 Tunbridge Wells With 13 UK stores, we are one of the most dynamic & creative furniture companies on the high street. We have an exciting future, which you could be part of. Your main challenges will be: - To work within the sales team to achieve the budgeted targets. - To exceed the expectations of your customer, and keep them as your focus in all aspects of your role. - To monitor orders effectively from time of order to delivery. If you have a strong interest in interior design and know you can achieve the above then we hope you want to join our team. We are a growing company with big ideas and great potential. What about you? Please write enclosing C.V. to: Natasha Lampard Sofa Workshop, 4-5 The Great Hall, Mount Pleasant Road, TN1 1QQ.
To apply/more information:
Sofa Workshop
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk



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The Insolvency Act 1986
TREASURY ELECTRICAL SERVICES LIMITED
(Company Number 04345257)

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above company will be held at Augusta Kent Limited, Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW, on Thursday 22 April 2010 at 11.00 am for the purposes provided for in Sections 99 and 101 of the Act. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a statement of claim, at the offices of Augusta Kent Limited, Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW, not later than 12.00 noon on 21 April 2010. The proxy form and statement may be posted or sent by fax to 01795 538868. Secured creditors may only vote for the balance of the debt, which will not be recovered by enforcement of the security, unless right to enforce is waived. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Augusta Kent Limited, Granville House, 49 The Mall, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8JW on Tuesday 20 April 2010 and Wednesday 21 April 2010 between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. If no liquidation committee is formed, a resolution may be taken specifying the terms on which the liquidator is to be remunerated. The meeting will receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the meeting.
Dated this 31 March 2010
Nigel John Barker, Director

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00630/FL & TM/10/00631/LB – The Walnut Tree North Meadow Offham West Malling Kent ME19 5NU – Dr Christopher Goat is applying for change of use to convert barn to create a single bedroom residential annex to "Ye Walnut Tree". Reason: LB HH

TM/10/00652/FL – Wateringbury Place 50 Canon Lane Wateringbury Maidstone Kent ME18 5PQ – Wateringbury Place Holdings are applying for part demolition of the existing roof of a greenhouse and replacement of roof and side windows and replacement of a flat felt roof with a pitched slate roof. Reason: CA LB

TM/10/00732/FL – Bowyers St Marys Road Wrotham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7AJ – Mr Gregory Sawdy is applying for rear dormer. Reason: CA HH

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting

CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area

HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 2 May 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive

11 April 2010

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/00962/HOUSE Netters Hall Farm Cottages Attwaters Lane, Benenden
Refurbishment of existing single dwelling house including timber cladding of the full width of the 2 storey extension and replace flat roof with new slate pitched roofs. Installation of new/replacement windows, doors and french doors with purpose made s/w joinery. Installation of replacement front porch, cast iron rainwater goods, external terrace to the east side of the house and internal alterations (LB)

10/00986/FULMJ Swaylands Penshurst Road, Bidborough
Provision of two additional disabled car parking spaces and overflow car parking area for visitors on open days to the estate (LB) (MAJOR)

10/00989/FUL Swaylands Penshurst Road, Bidborough
Extending of existing driveway onto Poundsbridge Lane to form new in out driveway to Estate (LB)

10/00843/LBC Park Cottage High Street, Brenchley
Listed Building Consent: Removal and replacement of tile hanging with existing tiles and some similar peg tiles on north facing front wall and incorporation of felt insulation behind and replacement of window flaunches with lime mortar as existing (LB)

10/00011/FUL Strawberry Hill House 65 Broadwater Down, Broadwater
Erection of 4 dwelling houses (CA)

10/01021/FUL 32A Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
Demolition of existing dwelling and replace with new dwelling with garage (CA)

10/01023/CAC 32A Broadwater Down Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
Demolition of existing dwelling (CA)

10/01024/HOUSE 1 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
Removal of redundant external staircase and utility space. Construction of new single storey dining room. Formation of two new openings in existing arcaded wall. Revised rooflight details (LB) (CA)

10/01025/LBC 1 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
Listed Building Consent: Removal of redundant external staircase and utility space. Construction of new single storey dining room. Formation of two new openings in existing arcaded wall. Revised rooflight details (LB)

10/00976/HOUSE 1 Wallfield Gardens Balcombes Hill, Goudhurst
Single storey rear extension to replace existing and erection of replacement porch (CA)

10/01000/HOUSE Invicta House Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst
Two-storey and single-storey side extensions (CA) (LB)

10/01060/FUL Lamberhurst Vineyard Furnace Lane, Lamberhurst
Alterations to existing structure to form tractor store and staff room (CA) (LB)

10/00940/HOUSE 31 Norfolk Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
Two-storey side extension with pitched roof to match existing high roof which replaces the existing single-storey side extension with flat roof; Creation of off street parking area (CA)

10/00228/FUL The Orange Shop 22 Calverley Road, Park
New shopfront layout to accommodate new single entrance, internal ramp and stallriser (CA)

10/00933/HOUSE 7 Carlton Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
First floor rear extension, two storey rear extension and re-roofing of property (CA)

10/01033/FULMJ The Fountains Retail Park Dowding Way, Sherwood
Variation of condition 22 of TW/07/02381/FULMJ
Renewable energy measures to be installed at the retail park for LXB Properties (Tunbridge Wells) Ltd (DEVPLN) (MAJOR)

10/01050/FUL Barn & Land Hawkridge Farm, Sissinghurst C/O Cranbrook Parish
Conversion of barn to a single residential dwelling (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement. You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date. You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 10 April 2010

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

(A20 MAIDSTONE ROAD, ASHFORD)
(40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of installation of a new water main the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting traffic on the A20 Maidstone Road, Ashford on or after 12 April 2010 for an estimated period of 8 weeks or until the works are complete.

The effect of the Order is to impose a Temporary Mandatory Speed Limit of 40 mph from the National Speed Limit sign north west of the junction with Orchard Heights, for a distance of 230 metres on each carriageway.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

(VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) places at the junction of Birchwood Drive and Birchwood Parade.

Full details are contained in the draft Orders which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Orders may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, DA1 1DR during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford, ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 3 May 2010.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

WROTHAM ROAD, GRAVESEND
(TEMPORARY RESRICTION OF TRAFFIC) (30MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use of traffic at any greater speed than 30mph on Wrotham Road, Gravesend from 140m north of centre of Chalky Bank junction to 20m south of traffic island on north side of former A2 trunk road.

The Order will become effective on 26th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 8 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the restriction is to facilitate safety to road users and work force.

HIGHWAYs - District of Sevenoaks

VALLEY ROAD, FAWKHAM
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Valley Road, Fawkham near West Lodge.

The Order will become effective on 12th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 nights between 21:00 - 06:00 Hours. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Manor Lane and Michaels Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate BT Openreach works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

HONEYPOT LANE, KEMSING
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Honeypot Lane, Kemsing from Noahs Ark to enterance to Kemsing Station.

The Order will become effective on 12th April 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 4 weeks.

These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Noahs Ark Seal, Fullers Street Seal, Watery Lane Seal, Watery Lane Kemsing and Honeypot Lane Kemsing.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate carriageway patching works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

(VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY)
(PROHIBITION OF WAITING, PROHIBITION OF LOADING AND UNLOADING) (AMENDMENT NO. 18) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1, 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be:-

1. to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following roads or lengths of road:

 Royal Military Avenue at the junctions with Barracks access road, St Mark's Close, Alma Road, Waterloo Road and Church Road.

The Order was signed on 9 April 2010 and will come into force 12 April 2010.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Mondays to Fridays in the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

(CHURCH ROAD, RAMSGATE)
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of BT cable replacement works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Church Road, Ramsgate, on or after 12 April 2010, for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

The road will be closed between between properties number 2 and 10. The alternative route for through traffic will be via A255 Boundary Road, Chatham Place, Chatham Street, High Street, Church Hill and Broad Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

(LAVENDER HILL, TONBRIDGE)
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Lavender Hilll, Tonbridge from the junction of Lavender Hill and Pembury Road to the junction with Drayton Road , on or after Monday 26th April 2010 for a period of up to 7 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Priory Road, Railway, Approach, Pembrury Road and vice versa.

Southern Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary to install a new Southern Water foul/Storm Pipeline.

Should you require any further information the South East Water contact is Stephen Smith on 01273 66350.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

STONE STREET AND CARRIERS ROAD, CRANBROOK
(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Stone Street, Cranbrook on or after Thursday 15th April 2010 for an estimated period of up to 17 days and Carriers Road on or after Monday 10th May 2010 for an estimated period of up to 23 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is for Stone Street via Waterloo Road, Angley Road, High Street and Carriers Road via High Street, Wheatfield Drive, Wheatfield Way, Oatfield Drive and vice versa.

EDF Energy apologise for any inconvenience caused, which are necessary for a new supply installation. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is David Creasey of Amber Langis Ltd on 01732 783985.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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Toasting 100 years of Alfa's highs and lows

By **STEVE LOADER**

FEW affordable car marques have the heritage and desirability of Alfa Romeo, which is celebrating its centenary this year.

It hasn't all been easy motoring; there have been terrible reliability and quality issues over the years.

The famously entertaining Alfasud of the 1970s/80s was just as notorious for alarming rust problems, while the marriage of a Nissan Cherry body with the running gear of the Sud in 1983, produced the awful ARNA, a model that almost trashed Alfa's mystique and cult status at a stroke.

But the brand has fought back under the ownership of former rival Fiat and lived to celebrate its 100 years in some style.

It currently has cult cars at both ends of the range, from the rare and gorgeous 8C Competizione supercar – a 'halo model' bringing a glow to the entire range – down to the lavishly styled MiTo supermini.

This summer sees another eye-catcher join the range in the form of a silky looking Ford Focus class contestant, the Giulietta – reviving a charismatic name from the Alfa history books.





WOW: The all-new Giulietta (right) arrives this summer while Alfa also have their stunning supercar flagship the 8C Competizione

In the meantime, the MiTo continues to grab the headlines, in an unusual way too for a marque synonymous with sportiness, for the little car's powertrains have now been completely overhauled to deliver more power yet also return better fuel and emissions statistics.

Even the 95bhp 1.3-litre entry model in the second generation MiTo Multijet diesel range (from £13,995) can hit 62mph in 11.6 seconds while returning 65.7mpg (combined cycle) and emitting just 112g/km of CO2.

But it is the new MiTO MultiAir petrol line-up that is perhaps most remarkable and underlining a general market fight back by powerful yet cleaner and more economical petrol units.

The new turbocharged 1.4-litre MultiAir engine is compatible with strict new Euro-V emissions standards yet available in lively 135bhp and 170bhp versions, starting at £15,165 and including a £17,895 Cloverleaf flagship model (top) – marking the return of a badge that used to adorn racing Alfas.

This hot hatch star can reach 62mph in just 7.5 seconds yet average nearly 50mpg and, as with all MiTos, has the clever DNA control that allows the car's engine management and handling to be adjusted according to mood and road conditions.

The MultiAir name comes from the engines' ability to adjust air and combustion minutely for the best balance of power and efficiency.

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05/05 Ford Mondeo 2.0 TD Zetec, finished in light metallic blue with contrasting interior. Alloy wheels, air conditioning, abs, electric windows, 5 door hatchback, a very good example of this much sought after car..... **£4.995**



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06 06 Nissan Note 1.6SE automatic, CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, on board computer, 15" Alloys, Air Conditioning, Front & Rear Electric Windows, Sliding Rear Seats with Flexi-board storage system..... **£6.495**



07 07 Micra C+C 1.6 Active Luxury Auto, One owner Coupe Cabriolet with electric roof, P/leather upholstery, alloys, front foglights, climate control, CD radio, intelligent key, full main dealer history **£6.995.**



06 06 Honda Jazz 1.3SE 5 door, finished A one owner car, equipment includes Alloys, Air Conditioning, CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, Electrically adjustable & heated wing mirrors, Electric windows front & rear, Remote central locking..... **£6.995**



09 59 Nissan Pixo 1.0 n-tec, Our demo, very low mileage, economical to run and £35 a year to tax, PAS, air con with pollen filter, CD/ Radio, electric front windows, remote central locking, front & side airbags, ABS with EBD... **£7.495**



05 05 Vauxhall Tigra Sport Twinport 1.4, Lovely looking, fun car, perfect all year round, 36,000 miles..... **£7.495**



06 56 Peugeot 207 Sport 1.6 Hdi 90 3dr, Popular £35/year tax, Good condition, CD/ Radio, Electric windows, Trip Computer, Leather Steering Wheel, Alloys, Front Fogs, 43,300 miles..... **£7.495**



08 08 Ford Fiesta Freedom 1.4, Stunning example of this popular hatchback, one former keeper, FSH, Heated windscreen, Front Fogs, Aux Input, 20,900 miles..... **£7.750**



04/04 Peugeot 307 2.0 CC, Metallic blue with black leather upholstery. Electric folding roof, a/c, alloy's , tinted glass, remote central locking, front fog lights power fold mirrors, auto headlamp's and wipers. Peugeot service history, low mileage for year..... **£7.595**



08 08 Citroen Berlingo M-SP VTR 1.6 16v, Spacious people carrier for work and familly. One owner from new, with full service history, 7353 miles..... **£8.495**



05 55 Hyundai Tucson 2.0 CRTD CDX, Fully equipped with Full Leather upholstery and heated front seats, Alloys, Front foglights, Electric windows front & rear, Electric sunroof, Electrically adjustable wing mirrors, Climate control air conditioning, Cruise control, CD/radio..... **£8.495.**



06 06 Mazda 5 2.0 Sport, Room for all the family in this well equipped 6 seater with CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Sliding rear doors, Climate control an 17" alloys **£9.495**



06 06 Honda Civic 1.8ES I-VTEC, A host of features, including CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Dual zone climate control, Electric windows front & rear, electric wing mirrors, cruise control and Reverse park sensors. **£9.495.**



09 09 Micra 1.2 '25' 5 door, Our ex. Demo. An economical to run car with CD/Radio and ipod connection, steering wheel audio controls, Electric front windows, Electric wing mirrors, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels..... **£9.995**



07/57 Mini One 1.6, Finished in deep metallic red with a contrasting interior. Air con, electric windows, remote central locking, alloy wheels, abs, cd player, front fog lights, service history, cheap running costs. One owner from new..... **£10.495**



05 05 Volkswagen Golf 2.0GTi Automatic 5 door, A fabulous drive with many features including 17" alloys, climate control, front foglights, electric windows all round, electric/heated wing mirrors, radio/ CD with 10 speakers..... **£11.995**



07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 2.0 VTR+ automatic, Just arrived! A spacious 7 seater with remote central locking, Electric mirrors, Front foglights, Air conditioning, Trip computer, Steering wheel audio controls, 16" alloys, Trip computer, ESP **£11.995**



04 04 Nissan 350Z, A dream drive with a powerful 276 bhp 3.5 litre engine, Full main dealer history, 6CD/radio, 18" alloys, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Climate control, ESP **£11.995**



05 56 Audi A4 Estate 2.0SE Tdi, Demo plus one owner. Full main dealer history and a host of features including Front fog lights, Climate Control, CD/Radio, Electric wing mirrors, Alloys, ESP **£11.995**



09 09 Peugeot 308cc 1.6 THP 150 CC, Black with contrasting interior, Electric folding roof, A/C, alloy's, computer, E/W, abs, remote central locking, only 7800 miles, over £21500 new..... **£16.995**



08/08 Honda CRV 2.2 DCi, gleaming black with contrasting interior. One owner from new and full service history. Many features including air con, electric windows, ABS, fact ory alloy wheels, detachable tow bar, front fogs plus lots more !, beautiful condition..... **£17.495**

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USED CARS

AGILA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Atlanta blue	6,350	8,995
09	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta Blue	Del mileage	10,495
09	59	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Sugar white	Del mileage	10,495

ASTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
02	02	Astra Club	1.6	5	Blue	85,880	2,995
05	55	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Ultra blue	30,260	6,995
06	06	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Black sapphire	33,050	7,695
06	56	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Panacotta	21,950	7,995
06	56	Astra Design Twin top	1.8	2	Black sapphire	40,200	9,695
07	07	Astra Sri Sports hatch X pack	1.6	3	Flame red	29,810	10,495
07	57	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Arden blue	25,000	13,995
07	57	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	17,325	9,995
08	08	Astra Design CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	22,200	10,495
08	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Silver lightening	24,300	9,995
08	58	Astra Sri CDTi X Pack	1.9D	3	Star silver	10,100	2,995
08	58	Astra Sri Ex Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	5,960	11,995
09	59	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Ultra blue	5,800	12,995
09	59	Astra Life A/c	1.6	5	Metro blue		11,995
09	59	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Star silver		12,995
09	59	Astra Sports Twin top	1.8	2	Air blue	3,320	17,495

CORSA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
01	61	Corsa Comfort	1.2	3	Blue	57,525	2,695
06	06	Corsa Sxi +	1.2	3	Flame red	57,600	4,995
07	07	Corsa VXR	1.6	3	Arden blue	28,450	11,495
07	07	Corsa Design	1.4	3	Tea green	17611	7,195
08	57	Corsa Design Auto	1.4	3	Star silver	34,500	7,995
08	08	Corsa Design	1.2	5	Ultra blue	25,275	8,495
08	08	Corsa Breeze E/T	1.2	3	Flame red	10,125	7,995
09	09	Corsa Active	1.0	5	Star silver	6,270	8,995
09	59	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Star silver	6,325	10,995

INSIGNIA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Insignia Tourer Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	9,300	13,995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusive CDTi	1.9D	5	Technical grey	5,300	16,995
04	04	Signum Elegance Auto	2.2	5	Star silver	51,500	4,495

MERIVA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Meriva Life A/C	1.4	5	Steel blue	19,730	6,495

TIGRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	07	Tigra Exclusive Red	1.4	2	Metro blue	32,500	8,995

VECTRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Vectra Life CDTi A/c	1.9D	5	Black	27,780	6,995
08	08	Vectra Design	1.8	4	Panacotta	25,050	8,995
08	08	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi + pack	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	41,700	8,995
08	58	Vectra Exclusive	1.8	5	Black sapphire	15,390	8,995

ZAFIRA

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Zafira Active	1.8	5	Metro blue	38,050	7,995
08	08	Zafira Breeze+ CDTi Auto	1.9D	5	Star silver	16,200	12,495

OTHER MAKES

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
05	55*	Ford Focus Zetec	1.6	5	Metallic grey	53,050	6,795
05	55	Citroen C2 design	1.1	3	Blue	30450	4,495

DUE SOON

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
02	02	Corsa Club E/T	1.2	5	Blue	37,000	3,195
06	56	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Flame red	37,000	7,995

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Nissan injects new life into Scrappage corpse

SCRAPPAGE may be dead, but most carmakers are breathing new life into the corpse.

And Nissan has something up its sleeve to supply an extra jolt – punters who buy are doing their bit to help the tottering UK economy.

The Japanese marque's efficient plant at Sunderland makes a third of all UK-built new cars and the plant, which produces the Qashqai crossover, Note family hatchback and Micra supermini, supplied a staggering 81 per cent of the Nissans sold under the Scrappage part exchange scheme.

And Nissan's post-Scrappage British Built Trade-in Scheme is even more enticing: a £2,000 minimum trade-in against any of the new British-built Nissan models listed earlier for vehicles more than seven rather than 10-years-old, as under the Government-driven Scrappage grant scheme.

Nissan GB's managing director Paul Willcox said: "As Britain's biggest car builder, we hope that by extending our scheme we can sustain the positive results seen to date and continue to support the British economy."

Nissan has also confirmed that it will make its Leaf electric vehicle at Sunderland from early 2013.



Yes, I arrived with the Wind…

IT'S a familiar trap for carmakers to come up with an 'international' name only to overlook unfortunate national connotations.

So, Renault has given us the Wind – no, not a gurgling gut or terrible flatulence, but a small coupé-roadster.



Of course, we can see what Renault – normally so sure-footed on the marketing front – is driving at, but I wonder whether whether it will make a few would-be buyers check out the newcomer's targeted rivals instead, such as the Mazda MX-5 Roadster Coupé, Vauxhall Tigra and Peugeot 207CC.

Priced £15,500-18,200, order books open later this month with first deliveries in July. Standard kit includes alloys, air con, cruise control, front fog lights, electric retractable hard-top – taking 12 seconds to open or retract – and sport seats.

5-Series load-lugger coming soon

HOT on the heels of the newly-arrived BMW 5-Series saloon, BMW has unveiled the Touring or estate model due here in September.

It will be the fourth generation Touring with prices from just over £30,000 and this for the likely best-seller, the 520d diesel.

Buyers in this country love the 5-Series Touring option – the UK is the type's third largest market – but it will be interesting to see if sales of top end versions are diluted by the 5-Series GT hatchback model launched earlier this year.



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The Government Scrappage Scheme is available until the Government funding is utilised or until 31/03/2010 (whichever is sooner). The Nissan British Built Trade in Scheme (NBBTS) is available until 31/03/2010. Trade in cars under the Government Scheme must have been registered on or before 29/02/2000 and under NBBTS between 01/03/2000 and 31/08/2002.The keeper of a trade in vehicle should have a UK address shown on the V5C and have been the registered keeper of the trade in vehicle for at least 12 calendar months before the order date of the new vehicle. Also a trade in vehicle must have a current MOT certificate at order date of the new vehicle and must be under 3.5 tonnes in weight. Under NBBTS there is no obligation to scrap any trade in vehicle and the new vehicle purchased must be a Nissan UK built vehicle (Micra, NOTE, QASHQAI and QASHQAI+2 only). Full Terms and Conditions apply (see your local Nissan dealership for details). Schemes available at participating Nissan dealers only. Schemes not available in conjunction with Motability or any other offers. Terms and Conditions subject to change without prior notice. Excludes Channel Islands / Isle of Man. Offer available at participating dealers only. NOTE and Micra shown have optional metallic paint at £400 including VAT. Images shown for illustration purposes only. Models subject to availability. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, WD3 9YS.

by STEVELOADER

Peugeot's TT star signals French marque's ambition







VOLUME carmakers in the West have been in a bit of a state over the past decade.

Having once derided wannabe marques from the other side of the world, they have realised with a shock that Hyundais, Kias, Korean-built Chevrolets and emerging names from China and India will take their bread and butter business away from them – and then some.

Ford and Vauxhall have been edging upmarket for a while, with mixed success, because they have not yet managed to produce a car that changes entrenched perceptions about the badge on the bonet of their cars.

Meanwhile Peugeot, is about to change mindsets at a stroke – again.

The once staid French marque did it in the 1980s with the brilliant and stylish 205 supermini and then topped it with that 'point and shoot' sporting icon of the decade, the 205GTI hot hatch.

But the GTI will be as nothing in the Peugeot hall of fame when compared with the new RCZ Coupé due next month.

To underline the car's expected impact and its task of helping to drive Peugeot up the global motor production charts, it will be the first-ever Peugeot to be known by lettering rather than numbers.

Unveiled first as a hopeful concept, the Audi TT lookalike so caught the imagination of press and public that it was pressed into production and, unusually for concept to production stories, Peugeot stuck pretty much to the script in transforming the dream car into a reality.

If anything, the actual RCZ looks even wider and lower slung and a distinctive double-bubble roof echoed by the rear screen also made the final cut.

It also appears to be a dream car at a near everyday price, starting at £20,450 for the turbocharged 156bhp 1.6-litre petrol version and undercutting the cheapest Audi TT by some £6,000.

But can ambitious Peugeot really threaten the prestigious German brand and other upmarket rivals in this sector?

Well, the Peugeot's sharply-styled exterior is easily matched by an interior that maintains progress made with the 308 family hatchback; Peugeot's journeyman Ford Focus class rival may have been a smoothed out re-work of the earlier 307, but the Lion brand really boosted up the cabin quality.

This was again carried over and upgraded for the classy 308CC coupé and now it has morphed into a smart and robust interior for the new sporty RCZ.

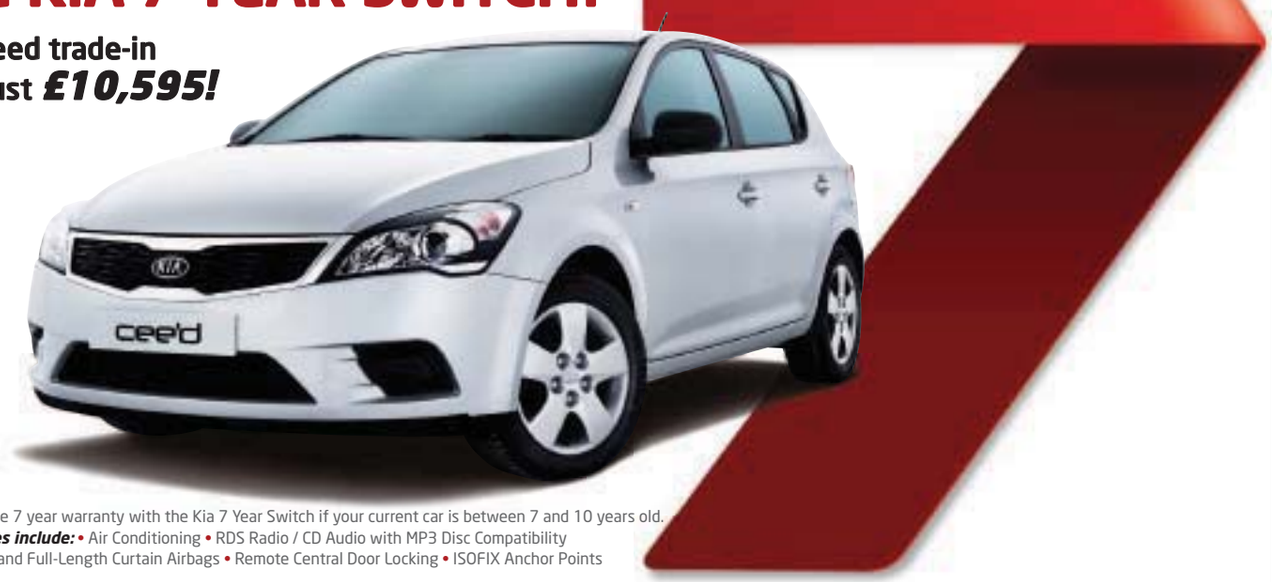
And Peugeot will not rest on its laurels; we can probably rely on a opentop roadster spin-off and we know that a green sporting icon is due in the form of an all-wheel drive diesel-electric hybrid. With electric motors for the rear wheels to complement the RCZ normal front-wheel drive, this 'coupé with a conscience' is expected to average around 80mpg and be road tax exempt.

At least one Kent dealership is making a fuss about launch editions of the new Peugeot star – WJ King's Peugeot franchise at Sidcup is holding a pre-launch event on April 12.

Sales manager Chris Meeks said: "This is an exciting time for W J King and Peugeot with the launch of RCZ. It's an opportunity for all of our existing and potential new customers to get an exclusive look at the car."

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06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 13000 MILES....£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 MILES....£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS SILVER 17000 MILES....£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS TANGO 18000 MILES....£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS BLUE 12000 MILES....£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4DR ALLOYS SILVER 21000 MILES....£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE TONIC 16000 MILES....£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX HATCH AUTO PAS AIR/C STRATOS SILVER 34000 MILES....£5995
05 55 FORD FOCUS GHIA 2-0 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 27000 MILES....£6995
03 03 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO 4 DOOR PAS AIR/C PEPPER RED 48000 MILES....£4995
03 03 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO 5 DOOR PAS AIR/C BLACK LEATHER 58000 MILES....£4995

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07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE ESTATE AUTO AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 1900 MILES....£8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5DR AUTO PAS SEA GREY AIR 17000 MILES....£8995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS TONIC BLUE 23000 MILES....£8995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA AUTO ESTATE PAS AIR/C TONIC BLUE 18000 MILES....£8495
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES....£6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES....£6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES....£6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO 21000 MILES....£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000 MILES....£7495

MONDEO

06 56 MONDEO 2-0 GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR SILVER METALLIC 23000 MILES....£9495
06 56 MONDEO 2-0 LX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER METALLIC 24000 MILES....£8495

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05 54 ALHAMBRA STYLANCE 1-9 DIESEL AUTO 115 SILVER 26000 MILES....£9995

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07 56 HONDA 2-0 CR-V AUTO EXECUTIVE SAT NAV GREY 15000 MILES....£14995
07 56 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SPORT SE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 18000 MILES....£8995
06 56 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C METALLIC BLUE 18000 MILES....£8495

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08 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ICE BLUE 300 MILES....£8995
08 08 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ICE BLUE 1300 MILES....£8995
07 57NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS BLUE 9000 MILES....£9495
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ULTRA BLUE 15000 MILES....£7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 8000 MILES....£7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ULTRA 4000 MILES....£7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES....£7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES....£7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-2 LIFE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 MILES....£7995
06 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MAUVE 19000 MILES....£7995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 ACTIVE 5DR AIR/C AUTO PAS BLUE 16000 MILES....£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES....£6495
02 52 CORSA 1-0 ECO 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 235 RTAX 39000 MILES....£3695
02 51 CORSA 1-4 COMFORT AUTO 5 DOOR BLUE 54000 MILES....£3695

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08 08 DAIHATSU SIRION SE 1-3 5DR AUTO PAS BLUE ICE 8000 MILES....£7995
06 06 DAIHATSU CHARADE 1-0 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 12000 MILES....£4995

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08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES....£9995
06 56 CITROEN PICASSO 2-0 EXCLUSIVE AUTO DIABLO 16000 MILES....£8495
06 06 CITROEN C3 1-4 AUTO PAS SILVER AIR/C 19000 MILES....£5995

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07 57 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 8000 MILES....£10995
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06 56 2 1-4 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 1900 MILES....£6995
06 56 2 1-4 CAPELLA AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 20000 MILES....£6495
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 16000 MILES....£9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR MET BLUE 9000 MILES....£9995
06 56 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SEA GREY 21000 MILES....£9495

SUZUKI

07 07 SUZUKI 1-6 SX4 AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR MET BLUE 12000 MILES....£8495
06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 15000 MILES....£5995
05 55 SUZUKI SWIFT 1-3 GLX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 16000 MILES....£7495
05 55 SUZUKI LIANNA 1-6 GLX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 51000 MILES....£4995

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08 57 KIA PICANTO 1-1 ICE 5DR AUTO PAS BLUE AIR/C 9000 MILES....£7495
06 56 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/CON 21000 MILES....£5995
06 06 KIA PICANTO 1-1 LX 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/CON BLACK 17000 MILES....£5495

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08 58 HYUNDAI 1-4 GETZ AUTO PAS 5 DOOR SEA GREY 12000 MILES....£7995
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07 57 HYUNDAI ACCENT 3DR ATLANTIC ALLOYS AUTO PAS 6000 MILES....£6995
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07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES....£5995
07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5DR AUTO PAS YELLOW 9000 MILES....£5995
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08 58 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 6000 MILES....£9995
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08 08 NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR AUTO PAS INFERNO RED 9000 MILES....£9495
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07 57 NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR AUTO PAS FADED DENIM 14000 MILES....£8995
07 57 NISSAN NOTE ACENTA 5DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 4000 MILES....£8995
07 07 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 1-4 5DR AUTO PAS CAFFE LATTE 17000 MILES....£7995
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06 56 NISSAN MICRA SPIRITA 5DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES....£7495
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04 53 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 SE 3DR AUTO PAS ARUBA BLUE 11000 MILES....£5495
03 53 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 S 3DR AUTO PAS BLUE 2000 MILES....£5295
03 53 NISSAN TINO 1-8 S 5DR AUTO PAS BLUE AIR/C 32000 MILES....£4495

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08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES....£9495

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03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES....£2995

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08 58 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5DR BLUE 2000 MILES....£6495
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06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ SE AUTO PAS 5DR BLUE 12000 MILES....£4995
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08 58 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 5DR 6 SPD AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES....£9995
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07 07 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 20000 MILES....£7995
06 56 VW GOLF 1-6 MATCH 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 11000 MILES....£11995
06 56 VW POLO 1-4 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 17000 MILES....£7995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 11000 MILES....£9995
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08 08 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS HATCH ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES....£8995
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07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR PEACOCK BLUE 15000 MILES....£6995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR METRO BLUE 14000 MILES....£6995
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR TURQUOISE 6000 MILES....£7495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 40000 MILES....£7495
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES....£6495
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES....£7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C ULTRA BLUE 7000 MILES....£6995
06 06 ASTRA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DOOR POMMEGRANITE 12000 MILES....£5995

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08 08 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 12000 MILES....£8495
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES....£8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE PANNACOTTA 15000 MILES....£8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN LIFE AUTO PAS ESTATE MET GREY 7000 MILES....£8495
07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES....£7495
06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 17000 MILES....£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES....£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR METRO BLUE 11000 MILES....£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 11000 MILES....£7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 13000 MILES....£7995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO AIR 5DR ESTATE ULTRA BLUE 13000 MILES....£7495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES....£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES....£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR BLACK 12000 MILES....£6495

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08 08 ZAFIRA 1-9 EXCLUSIVE DIESEL AUTO PAS BLACK MET 8000 MILES....£12995
08 08 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 7000 MILES....£8995
08 57 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS PANNACOTTA 7 SEATER 6000 MILES....£9495
08 57 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS STAR SILVER 7 SEATER 15000 MILES....£9495
07 07 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR PANNACOTTA 7 SEATER 10000 MILES....£8995
06 56 ZAFIRA 2-2 LIFE AUTO PAS METRO BLUE 7 SEATER 12000 MILES....£8995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR SILVER 3000 MILES....£7995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 5000 MILES....£7995
06 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR STAR SILVER 400 MILES....£7995
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08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR RED 6000 MILES....£9995
08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 10000 MILES....£10995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GOLD 16000 MILES....£8995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 19000 MILES....£8495
07 07 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C GOLD 9000 MILES....£8995
07 07 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 15000 MILES....£7995
07 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 4000 MILES....£7995
06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 10000 MILES....£7995
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06 56 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER 21000 MILES....£7495
06 06 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 17000 MILES....£7995
06 06 SCENIC PRIVILEDGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 17000 MILES....£7995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C RED MET 14000 MILES....£7495
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 1-6 AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 16000 MILES....£7495

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VISA Electron



Alfa MiTo 1.4 16v Junior	
47 monthly payments	£159.00
On the road cash price†	£11,935.00
Customer deposit	£2,000.00
Balance financed	£9,935.00
Optional final payment (inc. £295 fee)	£4,021.00
Total amount payable	£13,494.00
Contract mileage	10,000 per annum
Excess mileage charge	6p

TYPICAL 5.6% APR

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NORTHGATE GARAGE
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01227 829930 www.northgatealfaromeo.co.uk

Model shown, 1.4 16v Veloce at £14,645 OTR including optional Alfa red paint (£410). Range of official fuel consumption figures for the Alfa MiTo range: Urban 34.9 – 51.4 mpg (8.1 – 5.5 l/100km); Extra Urban 58.9 – 78.5 mpg (4.8 – 3.6 l/100km); Combined 47.1 – 65.7 mpg (6.0 – 4.3 l/100km). CO_2 emissions 139 – 112 g/km.

†On the road price includes 3 year Alfacare Dealer warranty, 12 months road fund licence, vehicle first registration fee, delivery, number plates and VAT. Figures and prices are correct at time of print. Vehicles must be registered before 30th June 2010. Offer subject to status, a guarantee and/or indemnity may be required. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Offers may be withdrawn or amended without prior notification. Alfa Romeo Financial Services, PO Box 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. See www.alfaromeo.co.uk for full terms and conditions.

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Typical 0% APR Finance Example				
Cash Price	Deposit (min. 50% required)	Amount of Credit	30 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable
£10,395.00	£5,197.50	£5,197.50	£173.25	£10,395.00



57 reg 207 1.4 m:play 3dr, Sports trim, Metallic Paint, Choice
Save £££s against new
Typical 0% APR FINANCE plan available

Typical 0% APR Finance Example				
Cash Price	Deposit (min. 50% required)	Amount of Credit	30 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable
£7,495.00	£3,747.50	£3,747.50	£124.92	£7,495.00



56 reg 207 S Hdi 90 3dr, Aluminium, 27k miles, £35 tax
Save £££s against new
Typical 0% APR FINANCE plan available

Typical 0% APR Finance Example				
Cash Price	Deposit (min. 50% required)	Amount of Credit	30 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable
£6,999.00	£3,499.50	£3,499.50	£116.65	£6,999.00



08 reg 207 SE Premium Hdi 90 5dr, Slate Grey, 21k miles, Panoramic Roof
Save £££s against new
Typical 0% APR FINANCE plan available

Typical 0% APR Finance Example				
Cash Price	Deposit (min. 50% required)	Amount of Credit	30 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Payable
£9,388.00	£4,694.00	£4,694.00	£156.47	£9,388.00

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DrivingReview



by STEVE LOADER

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Kia Ceed



ALL NEW: Facelift Ceed hatchback along with its SW (estate car) equivalent (left)

New Kia warranties now leap to Ceed speed warp seven

KIA continues to bend time like no other manufacturer.

It seems only yesterday that I drove a previous generation Kia Rio (2001-05) and lamented many failings and, the final insult, a break down.

But I then stepped onto some kind of space-time accelerator, because I now believe the Korean brand's facelift for its Ford Focus challenger, the Ceed (from £12,150), represents another leap forward – little more than two years after the original was launched.

The Ceed arrived in 2007, as if from a Stargate episode; an all-new model and name, designed and built in Europe to attack Europe's finest – the VW Golf, Ford Focus and Vauxhall Astra – and featuring facets from all plus a mould-breaking seven-year/100,000-mile warranty as a significant extra.

This was the perfect lure for the most sceptical punters; once in the showroom the curious could quickly see the Ceed and its three-door Proceed and Ceed SW estate spin-offs are good products

Kia now concedes that the mega-warranty was a gamble that could have gone expensively wrong if the Ceed engineering team had messed up.

But it didn't, and Kia has not only carried over the seven-year warranty for the facelift, but decided to offer a seven-year 'top-up' on used Ceeds sold through Kia dealers – that's confidence.

Furthermore, just to underline how far the time-bending Korean marque has travelled, all Kias now come with a seven-year warranty.

Aware that the 2007-vintage Ceed could be fidgety on the road, Kia hit the warp button there too – the facelift car's handling has been vastly improved in that relatively short time span.

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36 monthly payments of	**£119.00**
MRR OTR price* Includes compulsory £120 roadside assistance	**£8575.00**
Optional final payment	**£4145.00**
Total amount payable Including optional final payment	**£9604.00**
Total deposit	**£1175.00**
Amount of credit	**£7400.00**
Agreed annual mileage Excess mileage charges apply	**6000**
Excess mileage charge Pence per mile	**8.08p**

CITROËN prefers TOTAL — **5.9% APR typical†**





ELECT 3 FINANCE — NEW CITROËN C3 1.4 VTi 95HP EXCLUSIVE

36 monthly payments of	**£199.00**
MRR OTR price* Includes compulsory £120 roadside assistance	**£14210.00**
Optional final payment	**£5223.00**
Total amount payable Including optional final payment	**£15654.00**
Total deposit	**£3267.00**
Amount of credit	**£10942.00**
Agreed annual mileage Excess mileage charges apply	**6000**
Excess mileage charge Pence per mile	**2.62p**

5.9% APR typical†

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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (RANGE): URBAN CYCLE, EXTRA URBAN, COMBINED (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO_2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); HIGHEST: NEW CITROËN C3 1.6 VTi 120HP AUTO 9.6/29.4, 5.3/53.3, 6.9/40.9, 158. LOWEST: NEW CITROËN C3 1.6HDi 90HP DPFS AIRDREAM+ 4.7/60.1, 3.3/85.6, 3.8/74.3, 99.

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As for new kit Kia says the car has an upgraded interior, though this looked about the same as before – no criticism though since everything feels well-made and durable.

There are also exterior cosmetics, notably a far sleeker and more upmarket grille.

The real news though is the option of an effective automatic stop and go system that kills the engine at the lights or when stopped in heavy traffic and then smoothly re-starts it again.

Known as Intelligent Stop and Go (ISG) it is one of the market's best systems so far and offered on the car's junior 89bhp 1.6-litre/six-speed manual diesel powertrain (£14,500) and using Kia's new green 'EcoDynamics' sub-branding with energy-saving tyres.

With the green extras on board, this Ceed has an official combined fuel consumption of 67.3mpg and CO2 emissions of just 110g/km – that's zero-rated for year one and just £20/year thereafter under the new car tax regime from April 1.

However, as with all eco-friendly variants of standard cars, I'm suspicious about how much extra the consumer gets charged for 'doing the right thing' and opting for the most fuel and emission-efficient models versus standard equivalents.

In this case, if you want the same powertrain without the eco stuff you can pay £13,175, save £1,325 and still average in the mid-60s for mpg and emit 113gm/km of CO2 to get the same road tax benefits.

But the cheaper car's trim level is what Kia calls 'Ceed 1', still giving air con and generous standard comforts of this range, but the dearer EcoDynamics version comes with more luxurious 'Ceed 2' spec including alloys and electric mirrors, so bridging the price gap to go eco does not look quite so outrageous.

What's more, the EcoDynamics does not ask you to drive as if wearing a hair shirt; with the improved handling of the Ceed range generally it's a tidy drive with a smooth engine and a triple-money saver through thrifty fuel consumption, competitive pricing and that 'buy-it and forget-it' seven-year warranty.









DrivingPortfolio

KIA CEED 2 CRDI ECODYNAMICS 1.6 5-DR £14,500

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★★★★★
Road tax	£20/year (zero year one)
Best rival	Seat Leon Ecomotive

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the Ceed's so-so image even if it's great value

NOT SURE: the green Ceed is worth extra when the standard car is so economical anyway

REALLY LIKE: how the Ceed highlights Kia's rapid progress and 'can do' image.

KENT DEALERS

Ashford Orbital Kia: 0845 126 4861
Canterbury Kia: 08451282861
Whitstable: Harbour Garage 0845 1264715
Maidstone Kia: 0845 1264735
Tunbridge Wells: Humphries and Parks 0845 126 4738
Gillingham: Hidsons 0845 1264778
Gravesend: Hidsons 08451285584
Sidcup WJ King 0845 126 4801
Bromley Kia – The Chinese Garage, Beckenham 0845 1264814

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APR	5.9%

† Subject to a 6,000 miles per annum restriction, excess mileage charged extra (6p per mile+VAT)

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58 monthly payments	£234.94
On the road price	£11,259
Customer Deposit	£NIL
Amount of Credit	£11,259
1st Payment	£383.94
Final Monthly payment	£383.94
Total amount payable	£14,394.40
APR	10.7%

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.
Prices include delivery to dealer, number plates, 17.5% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Finance is subject to status, a guarantor may be required, written quotations on request. Finance provided by Renault UK and RCI Financial Services Limited. P.O. Box 493 Watford WD17 1FJ. These offers are available to retail customers only. These offers are not available in conjunction with any other offers and are correct at time of going to press. Cars shown have optional metallic paint (option price £395). Examples above exclude cost of optional metallic paint.

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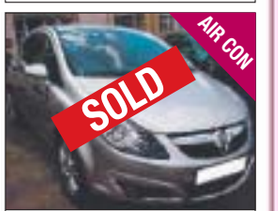
2007 56 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
1.6 Life 7 Seater, 1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 26k
£7,195



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Auto, 2 owners, A/C, 25k
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5dr, 1 Owner, A/C, Alloys, 27k
£6,295



2008 08 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI
3dr,1 Owner,A/C,Alloys,23k
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2007 07 PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 18k
£6,795



2006 56 NISSAN NOTE 1.6 SE AUTO
5dr, 1 owner, A/C, 37k
REDUCED £5,995



2007 07 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
1.6 LIFE 7 SEATER
1 owner, s/history, A/C, 28k
£7,495



2007 56 NISSAN NOTE
1.6 SE,5DR,1 OWNER,A/C,ALLOYS,14K
£6,495



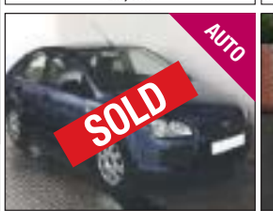
2007 07 FORD FIESTA
1.4 Style,5dr,1 Owner,S/History,21k
£5,995



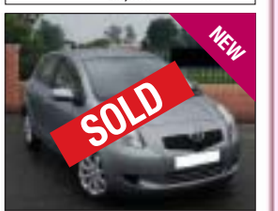
2007 07 FORD FOCUS
1.6 Sport,5dr,1 Owner, S/History, A/C, 34k
£7,195



2006 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ 1.0 SE
5 door, 2 owners, A/C, 25k
£3,495



2006 56 FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX AUTO,
1 owner, A/C, 28k
£6,495



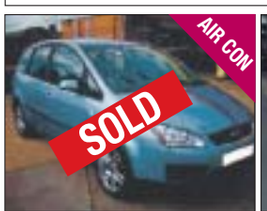
2007 56 TOYOTA YARIS 1.3 ZINC
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£6,995



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1.6 LX AUTO,5DR,1 OWNER,A/C,26K
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Santander CONSUMER FINANCE

AUDI

A4, 2.0TD S Line, gk07ohd, pearl lava grey, 39000 miles, £14795.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

A5, COUPE SPORT, 2007, white, 25000 miles, £27000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A5, COUPE SPORT, 2007, white, 25000 miles, £27000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A6, S Line, 2006, grey metallic, 54554 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A6, S Line, 2006, grey metallic, 54554 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, V6 COUPE, 2007, silver with grey leather, 17000 miles, £19390, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, V6 COUPE, 2007, silver with grey leather, 17000 miles, £19390, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

AZURE, Azure CONV AUTO SAT NAV, 25225188, silverlake blue, 19373 miles, £119000, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

BMW

1 SERIES, 118d Sport 5dr, mf07faj, black, 0 miles, £9987, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 116i SE 5dr, black, 23302 miles, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d ES, 2005, black, 53009 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 320d ES Touring, mh55ylz, grey, 5100 miles, £13995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 316i SE, wp51gvf, aluminium silver, 132000 miles, £3499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 530d Sport Auto, 2005, black, 52000 miles, £16500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 520d SE E60, lr56dxp, red, 0 miles, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 520d M Sport SAT NAV E60, nc06sgu, black, 0 miles, £14997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 730d SE AUTO SAT NAV, mt08ztv, black, 45410 miles, £24997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

7 SERIES, 730d SE AUTO SAT NAV, lb57bxh, grey, 1726 miles, £28997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

8 SERIES, 840 ci sport coupe auto, 1997, silver metallic with grey leather sport seats, 121000 miles, £5850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, Lt 5dr, fh09ckd, black, 2000 miles, £8495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

AVEO, Lt 5dr, eo58yhh, aluminium silver, 999 miles, £7995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

KALOS, sx, 2007, 19000 miles, £4700, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KALOS, 1.4 SX, 2007, silver, 23102 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX 5dr, la08agu, black, 6000 miles, £6995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX 5dr, ex09hkf, aluminium silver, 900 miles, £7995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 0.8 5DR AUTOMATIC, 2007, silver, 5400 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MATIZ, 0.8, 2007, teal blue, 25325 miles, £4500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TACUMA, SX, 7568079, black, 27600 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

300C, 3.0v6 crd auto, 2006, midnight blue pearl metallic with dark slate grey, 36000 miles, £11950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

CROSSFIRE, V6, 7578079, blue, 60100 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, 2003, black, 30953 miles, £4080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, gk51gwk, nightfire red, 65000 miles, £3000, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C5, 5, gk59tfj, blue, 9500 miles, £19995, Folkestone, 01303 245 588 (TRADE)

C5, 4, gj59dwa, grey, 8000 miles, £19995, Ashford, 01233 640100 (TRADE)

C8, 2.2 HDi 16V SX 5dr [6] Diesel Estate, gk06xwu, silver, 30316 miles, £9495, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

DISPATCH, 2.0HDI JIFFY TRUCK HOT & COLD SNACK, fe56okj, white, 25000 miles, £14995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

DISPATCH, HDi Jiffy Salsa Hot & Cold Catering Truck, fp56cvw, white, 39000 miles, £13995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

GRAND C4 PICASSO, 2008, grey, 9008 miles, £14080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRAND C4 PICASSO, 2007, silver, 24626 miles, £11080, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PICASSO, 1.6 VTX, 2007, silver, 14023 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RELAY, 3 33 L3 H, 2009, white, 5000 miles, £14500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RELAY, 3 33 L3 H, 2009, white, 5000 miles, £14500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, mv07vxt, red, 13164 miles, £7250, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, hy56zys, silver, 14459 miles, £7450, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

FIAT

500, Sport, 2009, bossanova white, 18000 miles, £10600, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, Sport, 2009, bossanova white, 16400 miles, £10600, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, Active T Jet 120, 2007, metallic symphony blue, 5789 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Active, 2005, grey, 19053 miles, £5500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, grey metallic, 38078 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, Dynamic, 2005, blue, 34000 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, 1.9, 2008, black, 7667 miles, £19500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, 1.9, 2008, blue, 55 miles, £19700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.1 ACTIVE ECO, 2009, blue over 4000 cars in group stock, 500 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PANDA, 100HP, 2008, red, 10 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PUNTO EVO, 1.3 MULTIJET DYNAMIC, 2010, black, 1500 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PUNTO EVO, Active, 2010, various, 10 miles, £10850, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.2 ESGT/ NAVIPK / 18IN WHEELS, 2009, nighthawk black, 7000 miles, £21500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2EXEC SATNAV/HFT, 2008, nighthawk black, 16000 miles, £15700, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ACCORD, 2.2 DTEC EX, 2009, polished metal, 4000 miles, £23000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.6SE, 2005, blue, 29000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, SE 1.8, 2006, grey, 27500 miles, £9495, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, TYPE-R 2.0, 2009, nighthawk black, 6910 miles, £16000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8se, 2009, nighthawk black, 5000 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 1.8SEAUTO, 2008, galaxy grey, 9711 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

CR-V, 2.2 ES, 2007, silver, 29773 miles, £17000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FR-V, Sport, 2006, black, 56406 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

JAZZ, 1.4 i-DSi SE -7, 2007, green, 17849 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, V6 SE Auto, 7396079, silver, 41700 miles, £8995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, V6 SE, 2004, zircon, 43001 miles, £8500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

XJR, 4.2, 2008, red, 50 miles, £50200, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

XK, V8 Auto, 2007, silver, 13524 miles, £34000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 TDi Station Wagon, r935osh, metallic blue, 122000 miles, £10995, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 90 TDi Hard Top, r973ljf, white, 96000 miles, £7495, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY, TD5 ES Auto 7 Seats, 2003, silver metallic, 51412 miles, £11000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2005, silver, 32800 miles, £10480, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER SPORT, 2007, black, 49000 miles, £34900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER SPORT, 2007, black, 49000 miles, £34900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

LOTUS

ELISE, 1.8 111S, 2004, starlight black, 17250 miles, £16500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ELISE, SC TOURING, 2009, blue, 6000 miles, £27000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 S SPORTPACK, 2009, silver, 14800 miles, £25000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

EXIGE, S - PERFORMANCE SPORTS TOURING, 2009, silver, 8100 miles, £30000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 2003, liquid yellow, 30300 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

COOPER, With Chilli Pack, re52ymh, yellow, 60000 miles, £5745, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

COOPER, 2002, silver, 59147 miles, £6500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

COOPER, 2002, silver, 65396 miles, £7500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ONE, 1.4, 2008, blue, 26500 miles, £10000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

ONE, 1.6, 2002, yellow, 38362 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911, CARRERA, 2009, white, 9000 miles, £67900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

911, CARRERA, 2009, white, 9000 miles, £67900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BOXSTER, 2.5 ROADSTER, 1998, blue, 116607 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

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‘More help needed for jobless grads’

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

JOB-hunting graduates are being failed by their colleges and universities at a time when the employment market is at its toughest for years.

That is the stinging claim by Kent recruitment consultants John Gelling Associates, which has urged better co-operation between universities and career management professionals to put matters right.

The consultancy says unemployment in the downturn has risen fastest among 18-24 year-olds with degrees. In the three months to September, 2009, one in five unemployed 18 to 24-year-olds had a degree – up from one in six three years ago.

Director of the Tonbridge firm, John Gelling, said: “This is such a terrible waste of resources on behalf of both the graduates and the institutions that educated them.

“It’s important to recognise that a real sense of frustration exists among these young people. They are asking, ‘Why devote three or more years and incur a huge debt, only to end up working in jobs that in no way correspond to our education and skill set, or end up on the dole?’.”

He said more needed to be done to help qualified students find suitable work. Even those lucky enough to get a job were often over-qualified, working part time or even working unpaid just to get job experience. But though the creaking UK economy has not helped, he said the crisis was a rebuke to colleges or universities for allowing graduates to leave ill-equipped to find the right job.



HATS OFF: But it’s back down to earth with a bump for many graduates once the reality of the jobs market begins to bite

Young entrepreneur Christina Breaden spotted the gap opening up and launched Idiom Edge last autumn, to help graduates cope with the Catch-22 of needing experience to get a job, but not getting to the interview because their CV has no work experience on it. Christina, who gave up a City recruitment job to start her venture, said: “Not only are there more graduates and fewer jobs than in recent years, but the increased pressure on careers services as a result of the higher demand they are facing means graduates are receiving less time than they need, particularly focused individual time.

“As such they really don’t know how to put together all aspects of a strong application, which is why I had so many people coming to me for help.”

Mr Gelling said: “I would like to see university career counselling supplemented by professional career management which goes beyond identifying the job and helps develop a personal marketing strategy to ensure the graduate finds and secures the right job.”

Mr Gelling also pointed to published data showing that 80 percent of work vacancies are never advertised due to cost and confidentiality.

“Universities and the Government must respond to the shortfalls in the current, historically high level of graduate unemployment,” he said. “Government funding should be made available to increase the co-operation between universities and career management professionals in order to make tried and tested placement expertise and tools available to university graduates.

“Improving the odds for the graduate to find a position will serve to improve the attractiveness of university education among young people and hence attract more students.”

Professionals help tie up high-profile designer deal

ONE of the biggest private company sales of the past 18 months used advisers from two Kent-based professional practices.

High-ranking legal firm Thomson Snell and Passmore and accountants Creaseys were called in to oversee the £100 million sale of design and furnishings company Cath Kidston (CKL) to a newly incorporated vehicle owned by TA Associates and the CKL Management Team.

Cath Kidston Ltd was founded in 1993 when designer Kidston opened a shop in London’s Holland Park, selling vintage fabrics, wallpapers and brightly-painted junk furniture.

It went on to become a global lifestyle brand and has 28 UK shops and concessions, five in Japan and two in Ireland.

Stake

The founder retains a substantial stake in the business and continues in her current role.

She retained Thomson Snell and Passmore – which has offices in Tunbridge Wells and Greenhithe – to negotiate her ongoing involvement as a shareholder and employee, while fellow Tunbridge Wells’ company Creaseys advised Ms Kidston on tax matters.

Thomson Snell and Passmore partner and head of corporate and commercial, James Herbert, said: “We thoroughly enjoyed working with Cath on what has been a fascinating deal.

“The fact that signing was achieved in such a short time frame – from the point at which TA emerged as the successful bidder from the auction process – is a testament to the commitment shown by everyone involved in the deal to work together to achieve a successful outcome.”

Opting for therapeutic career change



SMILES BETTER: Some career women are seeking satisfaction elsewhere

CAREER women are ditching big salaries in favour of “more fulfilling” jobs, according to new statistics.

These suggest some high-fliers – from such sectors as banking, accountancy and stockbroking – are taking cuts of up to £30,000 in order to retrain as counsellors, psychologists and therapists.

The data, which could be part of a wider trend across the county, has been collected through the Canterbury Christ Church University operations of nationwide training organisation Chrysalis.

It says applications for therapeutic courses more than trebled in the last 12 months, with many well-qualified students insisting their career downshift was worth every penny of lost salary to escape the rat race. Lisa Harris, 28, of Canterbury, said studying hypnotherapy had been a welcome change from a career in finance. “I still see friends who work in finance and they constantly complain about having too much work and no free time,” she said.

“Working in the therapy sector allows me a good split between my personal and professional commitments.”

Chrysalis co-founder Dr Chris Forester said: “We’ve noticed a dramatic rise in numbers on our courses in general, but in the last 12 months more trainees than ever were from business backgrounds, most in highly-paid positions.

“Many people spend their lives doing things they are second best at. They miss out on their true vocation and remain unsatisfied. We find a lot of students hoping to quit desk jobs for something more fulfilling.”

New mums are also using training courses to return to, or enter, the workplace, while other women are retraining after losing their jobs or businesses in the recession.

Dr Forester said: “We expect this trend to continue to rise as more women, some perhaps shaken by the economic slump, look elsewhere to make a living.”

Allison Price, the founder of online resource for working mothers MotivatingMum.co.uk, said the therapy sector was ideal for women looking for a change in pace.

“It’s extremely important to many new mums that they find a job or career path that allows them flexibility. It's no surprise that other women, especially those in the business environment, also crave that flexibility and job satisfaction.”

Ideal Home Show has a spring in its step for 2010

THE Ideal Home Show is a British institution, having been part of the furniture (excuse the pun) for more than 100 years, *writes Julie Maddocks*. For decades it was the biggest and best of its kind, but in recent years visitor numbers have dwindled – along with exhibitor confidence.

The 2010 show was under the new management of Media 10, who promised ideas, inspiration, entertainment, expert tips and great shopping for the 102nd show.

So was it a good time for Kent businesses to be taking a stand at Earls Court? Peter Baylis, of Gravesend-based Artificial Lawn Company, certainly thought so.

"The show gives us exposure to thousands of potential customers and allows us to demonstrate our product," he said. "And with the relaunch there's a quality feel."

Steve Button of Simply Soft water softeners, a family-run Crayford firm, agreed the event had lost some lustre in recent times, but he was prepared to trust in the Idea Home Show brand and the new owners.

"We're confident the show is moving in the right direction," he said.

First-time exhibitors Quelly Oak of Faversham sold eight chalets in the first three days of the show, said a delighted MD Michael Quinn. "This is the biggest show in the country and these sales prove it's the place for us to be," he said.

So it appears 2010's facelift has had the desired effect, giving the Ideal Home Show a new lease of life. With Media 10 at the helm it has been allowed to flourish again – and that's got to be good for business.

To see this, search 'Ideal' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



Julie Maddocks reports from the 102nd Ideal Home Show at Earls Court in London

Display of global ambition in packaging acquisition

By **STEVE LOADER**
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MARKET-leading German point-of-sale firm STI Group has pounced to acquire Kent retail display business, Line Packaging and Display.

The buyout, for an undisclosed sum, strengthens the privately-owned German company's position in the UK retail services sector and fuels its global ambitions. None of the 100 jobs at Gillingham-based Line Packaging and Display will be lost.

The Kent firm is a UK leader in making temporary retail displays and turns over about £15.75 million a year. It was founded in 1979 by Geoff Down, who will stay with the business for at least six months before retiring. He said: "The decision to move the business into the STI Group was driven by market needs for an extended product portfolio as well as an international dimension which can be now offered under one roof."

STI spokesman Dr Tom Giessler said: "Line Packaging and Display is a perfect member of the STI Group as it is remarkably strong in display design and manufacturing.



FROM LEFT: Line Packaging and Display MD Paul Clarke, STI Group chief finance officer Dr Tom Giessler and founder of Line Packaging and Display Geoff Down

"Line Packaging and Display's strengths, such as its flexibility and its product portfolio, represent an ideal fit for the STI Group."

The new partners also operate in similar sectors such as cosmetics, food, drinks, confectionery and home entertainment. Clients include Cadbury, Procter and Gamble, Warner Brothers and Nestlé.

Line Packaging and Display and STI Group's existing UK arm – STI Sales and Design Centre in London – will now combine under the new banner STI Line with its head office at Gillingham, though STI's London office is retained.

New duo for historic Thanet legal practice

THE 200-year-old Thanet solicitors' practice of Boys and Maughan has promoted from within to add two more partners, Katie Marsh, 27, and Mary-Joyce Insaidoo, 31.

Mary-Joyce specialises in family law and particularly divorce and separation matters and domestic violence and abuse, where she has worked closely with refuges and drop-in centres.

Katie concentrates on litigation, including business disputes, landlord and tenant matters and employment law.

Senior partner Jonathan Austin said: "We have a long tradition at Boys and Maughan of nurturing and developing our staff, and promoting from within.

"Katie and Mary-Joyce are the latest in a long line of homegrown talent and we hope that they have a long and successful future with us."



NEW PARTNERS: Katie Marsh (left) and Mary-Joyce Insaidoo



Firm hopes for airport take-off

CONSTRUCTION company GSE Group of Ashford has started a high-flying contract at Gatwick Airport's North Terminal.

And though the 30-strong team has to cope with strict security and ensure airport operations are not disrupted, they hope for more Gatwick work in the future.



"The airport director made things very clear from the outset when he said we were not working on a building site, we were working on an airport," said site manager Tony Bowles.

"Nothing we do is allowed to affect the airport's operations."

The project involves ground and highway works on an extension to the terminal.

"The safety regulations imposed by the British Airports Authority [owners of Gatwick when the project began] are second to none," Mr Bowles said.

"As an example, there is no petrol allowed at the airport, so all our plant has to be either diesel or air-powered.

"The team is working double shifts, from 7.30am to 10pm, seven days a week, to ensure we meet the project deadlines. I'm proud of the way staff have responded to a tough schedule and demanding standards."

And meeting such strict client demands could bring benefits.

GSE Group MD Derek Gilburt said: "There are major projects coming up at the airport and the relationship we have built with Costain – the main contractor – should mean we are in a strong position when it comes to tendering.

"Gatwick is a major international airport and to to show we can operate within such tight security constraints and without getting in the way of operations should stand us in good stead for future sensitive projects."

PUPILS at a Canterbury school helped pioneer a new system allowing them to submit and have homework marked online.

The framework was developed by ADM Computing in Canterbury for the city's Barton Court Grammar, but is now available to schools across the South East. ADM is the first and only Kent company so far to gain a rare Microsoft accolade of Virtualisation Specialist – one of 14 'competencies' awarded by the software giant to ADM and more than any other Microsoft Partner in the region. Virtualisation is claimed to slash IT costs in any organisation, increase performance and lower electricity bills.

A TEAM of business students from Canterbury Christ Church University came fourth in the national finals of the IBM University Business Challenge.

Dr Wim van Vuuren, the university's director of Business Consultancy, said: "This is a wonderful result, particularly as the competition started out with 280 teams. The students have put Christ Church on the IBM University Business Challenge map.

"The event has been a positive experience for the participating teams and the faculty as a whole. This achievement highlights the significance of the university's entrepreneurship pathway and our commitment in preparing our students for the competitive business environment."

The contest attracted 1,300 students from 75 universities.

ELECTRIC vehicles should carry a 'best before' date, according to used car valuation experts VIPDATA.

This comes as a salutary warning for companies considering the electric route to saving money and polishing their 'green' image.

VIP market watcher Alan Senior called the new age vehicles "perishable goods with a limited shelf life", though he admitted they would play an increasingly important part in future.

"Yes, they have problems, mainly charging time and limited range, but they also bring convenience as well as guilt-free motoring. But they have to be cheaper than an equivalent diesel for most buyers," he said.

NOVA IT Solutions has landed two business awards. After winning the Best Small to Medium Size Business accolade in the Best Business Awards – highlighting and rewarding excellence across the private and public sectors – the Maidstone company then picked up the Outstanding IT Support gong at the Global Business Excellence Awards.

One of the judges said: "Many organisations pay lip service to great customer service, but few actually deliver above and beyond expectations."

The12-year-old company, run by Roland and Heather Nowak, provides a full IT package and claims to have never lost a regular client.

Ms Nowak said: "The beliefs we hold today are the same as when we started – that having an efficient IT infrastructure and computers that work properly is as important to our customers as it is to us."

SIMPLY Scuba, a Whitstable-based diving shop, has won the Dive Retailer of the Year award from Diver Magazine, based on customer feedback.

Simply Scuba, founded by Gerrard and Jo Dennis, is one of a family of retailers including Simply Snorkel, Simply Beach, Simply Sweat, Simply Piste and Simply Swim.

Gerrard said: "This shows the hard work our staff put in on a daily basis is being recognised by customers."

Fresh start for Ardo UK

By **STEVE LOADER**
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CHARING-based frozen fruit and vegetable firm Ardo UK has consolidated its Kent operations at a new £15 million factory.

The company previously operated from sites at Charing and Headcorn, but has built a modern processing and packaging plant alongside its offices in Ashford Road, Charing.

All of the 127-strong workforce is now based at the development, which doubles potential production capacity and was opened officially by Jan and Ignace Haspeslagh, the chief executive and group buying director of the firm's parent company, Ardo BV of Belgium.

Investment

Apart from packing single fruit and vegetable types, the new factory can also parcel up mixes, corn cobs, rice and pasta and add sauces and seasonings.

Ardo says the investment enables it to produce high-quality products at a competitive price.

An enlarged cold store offers more opportunity for external customers who would like to store and distribute via Ardo in the UK.

Stephen Waugh, the company's UK MD, said: "The move from working on two sites 11 miles apart delivers great working benefits, saving time and energy.

"The new facilities allow us to further capitalise on the upsurge in demand for frozen fruit, vegetables, rice and pasta in the UK.



ALL TOGETHER: Ardo staff – in company colours – at the opening of the Charing factory, with Ardo UK MD Stephen Waugh (centre), and Jan and Ignace Haspeslagh of Ardo BV

"I would like to thank the staff for their patience and diligence during the months of construction and removal to the new site."

Technical director Darren Schlosser said: "The new factory is state-of-the-art. It is certainly the most modern of its type in the UK and, I dare say, Europe.

"It is an enclosed system that means neither product nor production staff have to step outside the facility.

"The product spends a minimal amount of time between cold storage periods and maximises efficiency and safety.

"There is also minimal handling on the lines and technically it delivers a better care level that is essential to enhance our customers' products."

Operations director Jim Everest said: "These facilities have given us the foundation to really increase our presence in the UK market.

"It offers the customer flexibility, a British site – which many UK clients see as important – and above all it was built with the help of our Ardo colleagues who are keen to see it succeed."



Hannah-Jane outside DSH

Return Tripp

HUMAN resources expert Hannah-Jane Tripp is back home in Maidstone after many years away and, most recently, a whirlwind 18 months of travel and adrenalin sports.

The former Maidstone Girls' Grammar pupil took a career break that included bungee jumping, white water rafting, sky-diving and acrobatic flights. But her feet are now firmly grounded as HR manager at Maidstone-based accountants and business advisors DSH.

Known as H-J, she grew up in Wateringbury, where her parents still live, and took a degree in German at Reading University.

There followed a master's degree in personnel and development, then a place on the Sainsbury's graduate training scheme, before working with one of the UK's largest property consultants and then a Kent-based charity.

H-J, 36, lives in Boughton Monchelsea with partner, Chris, and her interests include the vintage B-17 Flying Fortress known as Sally B.

She said: "It's great to travel, but always good to come home. This role is an opportunity to take a broad, long-term view of developing HR services across an organisation.

"And the chance to work locally for a firm the size and quality of DSH was too good to miss."

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Skye's the limit at Kings Hill



FAST-growing company Skye IT has moved to new offices at Kings Hill to cope with an expansion and reorientation of the organisation.

The Kent site, near West Malling, is now expected to play a bigger role in sales for the company, which also has offices at Cheltenham, Leeds and Dubai in the Middle East, and offers IT services to corporates and small to medium-sized enterprises.

The new 2,549 sq ft premises in Kings Hill's Tower View replaces modest temporary accommodation in Churchill Square on the same site.

Skye's chief executive Paul Swords said: "We took small offices at Kings Hill last year to dip our toes in the water and have been so impressed with the working environment we have decided to expand and open our new flagship offices.

"Initially we will employ 25 staff, some of whom will come from our other offices, but we are already looking to expand and recruit new staff from Kings Hill and the surrounding areas.

"We are a fast growing company and plan to have between 40 and 45 staff here within a year. We are looking to employ high-calibre people and are able to do that being based at Kings Hill.

"It is a sought-after place to work and we are able to recruit people who would usually work in London. We also use the restaurants and leisure facilities at Kings Hill to entertain clients, which we find very convenient, and I know the amenities here will also be a great help in attracting and retaining the staff I need."

Mr Swords, who has lived at Kings Hill with his wife and children for six years, co-founded the Skye Group with Gary Coppin in 2004. It has four divisions – Skye IT, Skye Consult, Skye Recruit and Skye Direct – and has 75 full-time staff and a turnover of £20 million.

Andrew Blevins, MD of Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd, said: "We are delighted that Skye IT has plans for further expansion and staff recruitment here.

"Due to the ownership structure of the office space across the park we are well placed to help tenants grow by moving them when they need to move, whenever possible."

Kings Hill is an established mixed-use development, including a 90,000 sq ft David Lloyd fitness centre, 18-hole PGA golf course, supermarket and other shops.

Scrappage deal's extra protection

SCRAPPAGE schemes caught the imagination of consumers and companies keen to save money on a car, van or boiler upgrade.

And many such schemes have carried on, despite the end of official Government-backed efforts.

Now the idea has caught on with oil tank manufacturer Kingspan Environmental, which has teamed up with Maskell Heating Services to offer a scrappage deal worth up to £500 to Kent homeowners replacing ageing steel or plastic oil tanks.

The partners say the scheme is also intended to raise awareness of risks from storing heating oil in old single-skinned tanks - those over 10 years old may be out of warranty and more liable to leak.

Kingspan's brand director, Philip Browne, said "Double-skinned tanks offer double protection against leaks and pollution. If oil leaks, you could be liable to an unlimited fine, plus the cost of the clean-up – which could run to tens of thousands of pounds and may not be covered by home insurance."

The Kingspan/Maskell deal also includes additional guarantees and benefits.

Side effects from demise of 'sicknote'

IT MIGHT not kill off the nickname 'sicknote' for the office's most habitual absentee, but the new so-called 'fit note' that came in this week will certainly impact on the UK economy, ***writes Business Editor Steve Loader.***

Work-related illness has been costing the UK about £100 billion a year and saving just part of this could be a real tonic to the ailing economy.

The fit note, or Statement of Fitness for Work, is a medical certificate issued by the employee's GP and records whether an employee is either 'not fit to work' or 'may be fit to work taking account of the following advice'.

However, Kent employment lawyer Melissa Edmond reckons the new system could be a mixed blessing for the employer if the GP opts for the latter option, when they are required to describe the effects of an employee's condition and suggest possible solutions the employer can use to assist the employee's return to work.

These four options are: phased return to work, amended duties, altered/flexible hours or workplace adaptation.

Ms Edmond – a member of the employment team at Kent law firm Furley Page – said problems could arise though if a GP's recommendation is unrealistic or expensive to implement: "While an employer isn't bound to follow any recommendations made by the GP, tribunals are guaranteed to look at the employer's response to a fit note in order to test the strength of a capability reason and the fairness of a dismissal process.

"Failure to consider and act on a GP's advice could result in various claims, including constructive dismissal or disability discrimination."

Unfortunately, she added, it is also going to take time for such loopholes to show up as the Government will not publish an evaluation of the new system until 2012/13.

The legal profession generally is urging employers to seek early clarification of any fit note issued, first with their employee and/or then with the GP, though it is recognised that busy GPs may not be able to respond immediately and might even charge for the advice.



HEALTH WARNING: The new 'fit note' system has potential pitfalls for employers, lawyers say



Farmers to put on Sunday best

FARMERS across Kent are being asked to go online and get involved with Open Farm Sunday, on June 13.

This will be the fifth year farms have been encouraged to throw open the five-bar gate to help the public discover and understand the story behind their food, and the dedication and skill of the farmers who produce it.

But this is the first year that organiser LEAF (Linking Environment And Farming) has run an online workshop – www.farmsunday.org – to guide farmers interested in taking part.

The online guide features suggestions, tips, health and safety advice and activity ideas.

LEAF spokesman Tom Allen-Stevens said previous participants have found the special days hugely rewarding. "Events needn't be complicated to arrange and can be on a scale to suit the farmer and the farm," he said.

"Whether large or small, invite only, or open to everyone, it's a fantastic opportunity for farmers to engage with their community and communicate the excellent work they do to produce the food we all eat."

Visitors can learn from farmers how natural plant and insect species are encouraged to thrive alongside crops. They can also get a close look at farm animals and how the needs of wildlife are balanced with modern food production.

The event is sponsored by big names including ASDA, Defra, Morrisons, National Grid, Natural England, Waitrose, Warburtons, Marks and Spencer and the Soil Association.

But those planning to host an event need to register fast via the website. Mr Allen-Stevens said: "Resource packs started to be sent to host farmers before Easter.

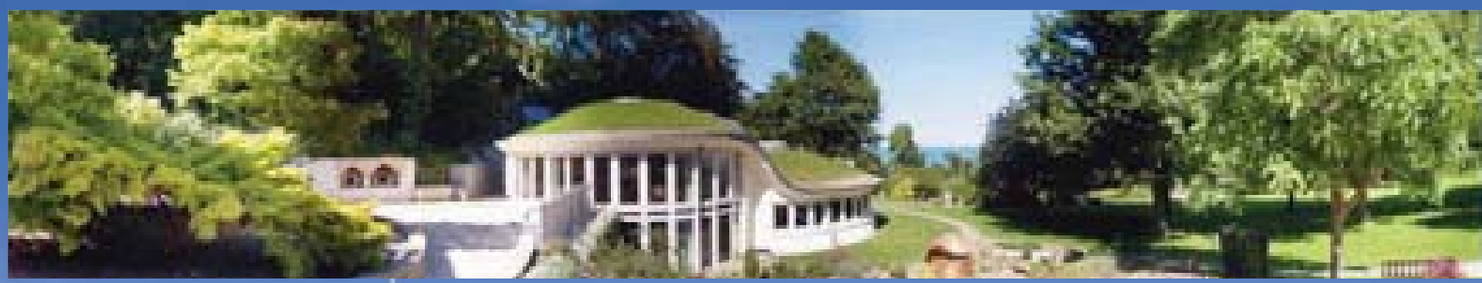
"To ensure a successful event, farmers are urged to start putting plans in place now."

The resource pack contains publicity material, suggested activities, health and safety guidance and polo shirts.

LEAF promotes environmentally responsible farming and helps farmers to produce good food, with care and to high environmental standards, all identified in-store by the LEAF Marque logo.

Protect Kent Energy Conference 2010

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KOS BUSINESS AWARDS 2009 CHARITY WINNER

Event Sponsored by the Cleary Foundation and Kent Community Foundation

Timeline

KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 100 years

1910 **100 YEARS AGO:** KENT were ranked favourites to defend their County Championship crown as the 1910 season loomed into view, with the Times' correspondent writing: "There is no reason for supposing that the side will not be as formidable as ever."

In AP Day, Woolley and Humphreys, Kent were reckoned to have three of the most promising young batsmen in the country. Captain EH Dillon and SH Day were tipped to play the anchor roles.

However neither DW Carr, nor JR Mason, at the age of 35, were able to appear until August.

Mason was forced to delay the start of his 18th season of first-class cricket until August due to the pressures of his job as a solicitor.

Kent's Achilles heel was expected to be the bowling attack, which relied heavily on the injury-prone Fielder.

Bizarrely the correspondent felt Yorkshire's chances would be hindered because they lacked amateurs: "a side composed exclusively of professionals is almost bound to play rather dull cricket."

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** A DOSE of the yips cost Miss A Rogers the Kent Junior Golf title.

The defending champion led Miss S Ward by one stroke on the final morning, starting on 92, but she was affected by nerves and ended up finishing three shots down on her 15-year-old challenger, who carded 140 for the 27 holes.

The turning point came on the seventh, when Rogers needed nine shots and her game never really recovered.

Ward was the younger sister of the Curtis Cup golfer Mrs A Bonallack.

Kent regained the county badminton championship, breaking a sequence of five consecutive wins for neighbours Surrey, with a 13-2 win over West of Scotland at Paisley.

The contest was far closer than the scoreline suggests, with the Scots wasting good chances in at least eight of the matches, but Kent enjoyed the better of the conditions - sunlight reportedly dazzled the Scots early on.

In rugby, Sevenoaks were beaten 12-8 at Beckenham, while Tonbridge lost 8-13 at home to Catford Bridge.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** A GOAL nine minutes from time by Martin Robinson kept Gillingham's promotion push on course by earning them a 3-2 win against Bournemouth at Priestfield, in front of 5,275.

After losing 1-0 to Derby at the Baseball Ground on the Saturday, Gillingham badly needed to make up lost ground, but the Cherries, managed by Harry Redknapp, stunned the home crowd when they went in front after just nine minutes.

Terry Cochrane drew the home side level with 32 minutes gone and then set up Derek Hales for his first goal for the Gills since moving from Charlton, six minutes after the restart.

Bournemouth cashed in on some poor defensive play to draw level on the hour, before Robinson's late intervention.

The result left Gillingham in fourth place, three points behind Millwall, who were held to a 0-0 draw by Reading.

There were a number of Kent derbies in the Southern League Southern Division, with Thanet United winning 3-0 at Chatham, Dover drawing 1-1 with Erith & Belvedere at Crabble and Sheppey beating Tonbridge 3-0.

If you have any fascinating stories from the above years gone by, email them to us at

sports@kosmedia.co.uk

What Gills need to survive

DAVID PRITCHARD charts where the Gills will need to pick up points in their last five games to beat the drop into League Two

GILLINGHAM'S season enters the finishing straight next week as they begin the final five games of an eventful campaign.

Just as with a year ago, no one can say with any certainty which division Mark Stimson's side will be playing in next season. But while last April the Gills were desperate for points in their League Two promotion chase, victories are needed this time to avoid an instant return.

The main comfort is Gillingham have plenty of company in League One's survival race, with almost half the teams still involved.

At the upper end, Brighton – Tuesday night's opponents – have hit form at just the right time and went into yesterday's game with Carlisle on a virtually safe 48 points.

At the bottom, Stockport's long-anticipated relegation could have been confirmed yesterday, while Wycombe need a miracle to avoid joining them in League Two next season.

It leaves Gillingham as one of eight teams fighting to avoid the final two relegation spots. Results from the last 10 seasons show the side finishing fourth bottom average just over 48 points. Accepted wisdom puts safety at 50 but it is not always guaranteed, with Torquay relegated on 51 points in 2004/05.

Any fixture for an out of form side can appear daunting, but there is no doubt the Gills have a tough finish. Norwich away could well be a lost cause but with none of the top 10 winning at Priestfield this season, Stimson's side will fancy their chances of getting something from games with Leeds and Southampton. The game against Brighton on Tuesday looks the most winnable fixture of all and could hold the key to attacking the next three games.

Given their atrocious away form, few Gills fans will want to rely on needing a win to stay up on the final day, but a trip to what should be an already-relegated Wycombe offers hope.

For an optimist like Stimson, the high profile games are an opportunity.

He said: "It's great, it's what we wanted last year when we won promotion. We can't wait to play these fixtures and it's a great way to finish the season."

For others, like Alan Liptrott, co-editor of fansite GillsConnect, the next few weeks are not going to be quite as enjoyable.

He said: "I wouldn't say I'm optimistic but I'm positive. It's in our own hands and while it's like that and we can see the other teams falling by the wayside, it's fine. With our away form it's important we get maximum points at home. It could go down to the wire, but I'd hate to go to Wycombe on the final day needing three points."

THE RUN-IN

- **BRIGHTON** (home) April 13
- **LEEDS** (h) April 17
- **NORWICH** (away) April 24
- **SOUTHAMPTON** (h) May 1
- **WYCOMBE** (a) May 8



CELEBRATION: Can Dennis Oli (carrying Curtis Weston) help guide Gills to safety in League One?

Picture: ADY KERRY

House takes one for the team



Picture: CHERYL KING/CKINGIMAGES

TEAM PLAYER: Kristian House (in the green jersey) backed up fellow rider Chris Newton

NATIONAL road race champion Kristian House was happy to sacrifice his chance at an individual title for the good of the team at the Tour DoonHame last weekend.

The 30-year-old went into the final stage in Scotland wearing the green jersey, awarded to the rider who collects the most points from sprints during the race.

It would have been a first title of the season, but instead he played a supporting role to help Rapha Condor Sharp team-mate Chris Newton win the overall classification, 10 seconds ahead of nearest challenger Jack Bauer.

Team tactics play a crucial role in road cycling and House, who grew up near Canterbury, insisted he was pleased to help Newton finish the race first.

He said: "I think you get as much satisfaction doing what we did as winning something for yourself. Everyone rode themselves into the ground for him. I was in green but that was never my goal. There were probably moments when I could've gone for it and if the opportunity came up for easy points I would've, but it didn't happen."

House's season is only a few weeks old, but already he has competed in the United States, Singapore and France.

The reigning British champion moved straight from the Tour DoonHame to ride in the four-day Circuit des Ardennes, which finishes tomorrow, as the season gradually starts to intensify.

Races in New York and Japan are also scheduled in the next few weeks, sandwiching the Tour de Bretagne later this month – one of the key early season events.

House believes the win in Scotland, which came as another team from Rapha were winning stages in Northern Ireland, bodes well for the season ahead.

He said: "I'm not in peak shape yet but I'm starting to feel good. You can do all the training you want, but it's only once we get to these races when you get an idea of how you're going."

Tiger Tim in plea to fund young aces

FORMER British number one Tim Henman has called for greater investment at grass roots level in a bid to produce significant numbers of top players, ***writes David Pritchard.***

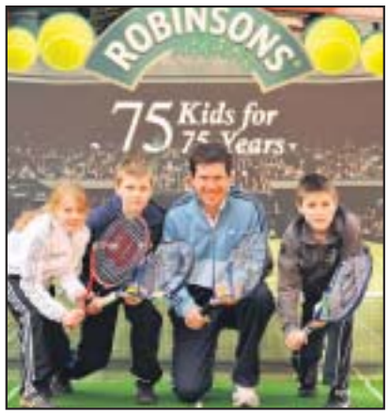
Henman, who was in Kent this week as part of a nationwide search for young tennis talent, feels the sport's problems stem from a lack of attention at the lowest levels.

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) will receive £26 million in public funding this year, part of a 10-year plan launched in 2006 to improve standards in the sport.

But while spending has increased results have shown little sign of improvement. With the exception of world number four Andy Murray, who has trained outside of the LTA's programmes from an early age, Britain has no other men in the world's top-150. Elena Baltacha, ranked 59, is the only Briton in the women's top-100.

The sport plumbed new depths last month when the men's team lost to Lithuania in the Davis Cup, forcing them into a play-off with minnows Turkey in July.

"I don't think it's any great surprise, we've got one world-class player in Andy Murray and then there's a big void behind," Henman told Kent on Sunday.



COUNTY VISIT: Tim Henman with Nick (14), Chris (12) and Lucy (9), all from Maidstone

"Looking at the results at the top and how we really don't have the strength in depth, I think we really have to question the grass roots structure because we're not getting enough kids coming through.

"We're not getting enough promising 16 and 17-year-olds who can go on and play the game professionally. I do think it's so important looking at a wider issue, the LTA are investing a lot of money on grass roots."

'Tiger Tim' visited Maidstone on Tuesday to launch a campaign to mark Robinsons' 75th anniversary of sponsoring Wimbledon. The aim is to find 75 players aged six to 10 for a training camp at Wimbledon next month.

Henman, who reached six Grand Slam semi-finals before retiring in 2007, believes the key to success is increasing the quantity of young players taking up the sport.

He said: "If you get a lot of kids playing there's a chance the good ones can progress further down the line and we certainly need that in this country.

"We've got to look at making the accessibility of the game even better so we can get thousands and thousands of kids playing in their local clubs with good facilities. There's no reason why we can't start producing good players who can become good professionals."

The Kent heats of the Robinsons' '75 Kids for 75 years' campaign will be held at the Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre on Sunday, May 9. Visit www.robinsonsdrinks.com/wimbledon to enter.



VICTORY: Tommy Hill stormed to Brands win

Returning Hill starts season with a bang

TOMMY Hill finally had some good fortune last weekend after picking up a win in the opening round of the British Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch.

The 25-year-old had an opening round to savour at his home circuit on Easter Monday, which saw him finish the weekend leading the championship. He stormed to only his second career win in the first race, before battling hard with James Ellison to only miss out on a perfect double by two tenths of a second.

The Beckenham-born rider has had more than his fair share of bad luck during his career. When he was 14 he lost a kidney and spleen after a motocross accident. His tale of woe continued two years ago when he missed the entire 2008 season after breaking his leg, hand and ankle. On his return to racing six months later, he broke his leg again.

He has since put his problems behind him, making the result at Brands all the more sweet.

He said: "It was a fantastic weekend. There have been times when I have sat there in hospital and asked myself, 'what have I done wrong to deserve this?'

"I have kept my head down and kept going. When accidents are not your fault it's frustrating. It's been hard, but I'm glad I'm making some progress. I've just got to build up my confidence."

Hill heads to Hampshire's Thruxton circuit for the second round next week.

Kent stopper kept on his toes by Addicks ace

Charlton goalie helps Jones to keep in shape

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT wicketkeeper Geraint Jones stepped up his preparation for the new county cricket season with a goalkeeping session put on by Charlton Athletic goalkeeper Rob Elliot.

Jones begins his 10th season with the county this week as Kent make a return to Division One of the LV= County Championship, starting against Nottinghamshire on Thursday.

The 33-year-old spent the majority of pre-season indoors working on his batting, but was able to get out on the St Lawrence pitch this week to work on his wicketkeeping, alongside second-team keeper Paul Dixey.

Drills

Jones and Dixey were put through their paces by Charlton stopper Elliot who went through several drills with the Kent pair to help with their footwork and body position when catching.

Jones, who still harbours ambitions to play for England again, felt it was an invaluable work out.

"In pre-season you want to cover all your angles and footwork is a huge part of wicketkeeping, so hopefully it will trigger everything off," he said. "You could see when Rob did his demonstrations, the speed of his feet and that was why we got together to give it a go.

"Diving is something as a wicketkeeper that we do the same as a goalkeeper in training, and for me it reinforced that with the rest of pre-season leading into the first game, I want to make sure I am going to get those wide catches.

"It worked out as bit of a springboard into the new season really."

Elliot, who lives in St Mary's Island in Medway, is himself a big cricket fan and often turns out for Harbledown in the Kent Village League.

After a successful session at Canterbury, the 23-year-old is hopeful of working with the Kent pair again in the future.

"I always come down to watch Kent and have done ever since I was about 16," he said. "I play cricket when I can, I think in some respects football and cricket goes hand in hand.

"There are similarities between goalkeeping and wicket-keeping with footwork and body shape, so I did some stuff with them that we do, and if they take anything out of it then great."





TECHNIQUE: Geraint Jones and Paul Dixey were given tips on footwork by Charlton goalkeeper Rob Elliot Pictures: ADY KERRY

Hawk's Crucible opener

BARRY Hawkins will attempt to get the World Snooker Championship off with a bang next Saturday.

The Dartford cueman, who turns 30 next week, faces defending champion John Higgins in the opening match in Sheffield.

Hawkins came through qualifying last month to reach the last 32, giving him an opportunity to finally break his duck at the Crucible Theatre at the fifth attempt.

Rainham's Gerard Greene is one of the last players to get his campaign under way against 2005 champion Shaun Murphy on Wednesday, April 21.

Motorbase off to a flyer with points haul

MOTORBASE Performance lead the British Touring Car Championship after making history by recording their first one-two finish at Thruxton last weekend.



The Wrotham-based team stunned the paddock with an impressive haul of points, which included finishing first and second in the final race at what has traditionally been their bogey circuit. The results came just weeks after the team considered exiting the championship.

Driver Mat Jackson picked up a podium finish with third place in the first race. More points came in the second race, with Jackson fifth and Steven Kane (pictured) eighth.

The third race saw Kane victorious and Jackson in second – Motorbase's first one-two in their five-year history.

Team owner David Bartrum said: "It was an awesome weekend for everyone involved in the team. The one-two meant such a lot to all of us, as we have worked so hard to get on the grid and been through so much."

Pictures: IGOR KUPCO



Olympic facilities face the acid test

DAVID PRITCHARD says the Modern Pentathlon World Cup, currently taking place at Medway Park, gives one of the county's London pre-Olympic training venues the chance to show off its wares as the women athletes battle it out for supremacy in today's final

THERE may be still more than two years left until the London Olympics, but this weekend's modern pentathlon competition at Medway Park offers a big opportunity for British athletes to impress.

Following the finale to the men's event at Kent's brand new sports facility yesterday, the world's top women modern pentathletes will compete for valuable World Cup points today. It is on the women's side where Britain has a significant strength in depth in recent years, with Canterbury's Georgina Harland one of four to win medals at the last three Olympic Games.

Competition for places can be intense and with only two places available for London 2012, just getting on the team will be an achievement. World Cups usually offer each country four spots, but hosts can field up to 12 men and women, which means all Britain's top women will get a rare chance to impress at the same time.

Heather Fell, who won silver at the Beijing Olympics in 2008, is pleased all the contenders are able to compete, with several expected to reach today's final.

She said: "It's great that so many of us can compete because we have got such a strong team, especially this year. Normally there's pressure just to get selected for the World Cups because there are only four slots. We're all here and it's just a case of doing your best, we're not competing against each other directly, whereas we are when we do national selection."

The added entries have allowed the British team to hand chances to up and coming talents, including two Kent teenagers. James Myatt from Rochester and Meopham's Kate French both made their senior World Cup debuts in the semi-finals earlier this week, gaining valuable experience.

While it is a big chance for the athletes, the event has been treated by Pentathlon GB as a dry run for the 2012 Games. After staging the World Championship at Crystal Palace last summer, Dominic Mahony, GB's team leader, believes it is a useful stepping stone to raising the sport's profile.



ON GUARD: Team GB is using the World Cup competition at Medway Park as a dry run for the London Olympics in 2012

He said: "It's part of the journey towards London 2012. We've got a long-term vision going towards that and it's great for the athletes and us as a sport to get a chance to compete at home.

"It's competitions of this standard that help to make a point that we are a very successful Olympic sport. People should keep an eye on this sport as a chance of success at London 2012."

While modern pentathlon's changeable nature makes it difficult to predict who will finish among the medals this afternoon, Medway Park has already earned many plaudits. Formerly the Black Lion Leisure Centre, an £11 million revamp was completed last month.

Jan Bartu, Pentathlon GB's performance director, has been impressed by the venue, which could host other World Cup events in the future.

He said: "It shows it is possible to put together a top-class event like this. The fantastic thing about it is everything is within walking distance. Once the athletes are in place, as a spectator you can see the whole event. We'd love to see all World Cups done this way."

Log on to www.kentnews.co.uk for the results and reaction to this weekend's finals. See next weekend's Kent on Sunday for a look at the plans to create a lasting legacy for modern pentathlon in the county.



TODAY'S TIMETABLE WOMEN'S FINAL

FENCING	9am-11.30am
SWIMMING	12.30pm -1.10pm
SHOW JUMPING	2.15pm- 4.15pm
COMBINED EVENT	5.30pm-6pm
MEDAL CEREMONY	6.15pm

Home on the range

The Modern Pentathlon World Cup closes today after a glorious four days in Kent with the new combined event set to produce a thrilling end. Chief sports reporter DAVID PRITCHARD went along to experience what it's like to be on the firing range and what pressure the athletes will be under in this evening's final event



BURNING lungs crying out for oxygen, heart rate thundering, legs weary from hours of competition, mental pressure with precious points at stake – and then you have to stand perfectly still and shoot at a miniscule target.

This will be the daunting scenario which faces the athletes taking part in the final event of the women's modern pentathlon this afternoon. Traditionally contested over five separate events, modern pentathlon's governing body last year opted to merge the running and shooting elements for a more unpredictable, television-friendly climax to competitions.

Standing on the firing range earlier this week myself, the challenge the combined event provides became immediately obvious. The key to consistency is holding a steady aim – missed shots cost valuable seconds – but after a gruelling day of competition and 1,000-metre runs it appears difficult just to stay standing.

At this stage I must come clean. I did no running before trying my hand on the range, nor had I done any other form of exercise in the hours preceding it. Despite being completely fresh it was still very difficult to keep the air pistol steady, with my shots distinctly averse to the black rings in the centre of the target.

When I started, the range was virtually deserted, which restricted my embarrassment to only a few. But while my instructor offered me handy pointers, such as "you should be aiming at target six, not five", it began to fill up with proper athletes.

Decked out in their team tracksuits it began to look like a very fit version of the United Nations, all going through their final preparations alongside me.

It was my cue to put the gun down and leave it to the professionals. Watching them finish their runs and shoot up close was extraordinary, with their years of practice reducing the process of load, aim, fire – pause – load, aim, fire to become almost mechanical.

While many were initially resistant to combining the event, there is little doubt it has had the desired effect of creating an exciting finish.

One thing is for sure, whoever triumphs this afternoon will have thoroughly deserved it.

England's always on my mind, but Kent comes first



A FEW people have asked me whether I still believe I can add to the 15 Test caps I have won for England, or whether that ambition is now more to the back of my mind.

The answer is that it very much remains at the front of my mind, even though I know it is getting tougher and tougher to get back into England contention.

I was selected by England for the ICC World Twenty20 tournament last summer, of course, but that did not lead to a Test return and scoring runs for Kent is what it is all about for me at the moment.

Seeing Michael Carberry, who is only a year younger than me, given a Test debut by England in Bangladesh does give me some degree of comfort, and something to push me on.

Jonathan Trott, too, is someone similar in age to me and yet he has been given a chance, so who knows?

I remember in the 2004 season, when I turned 25, becoming the first batsman in the country to reach 1,000 first-class runs and doing that in early June.

With the early start to this LV= County Championship season, perhaps something like that could be done even earlier… that's the sort of thing I have to aim to do to get my name back in the England frame.

This new season, my fifth as Kent captain, will bring many fresh challenges and for now my whole focus is on getting the team off to a good start back in Division One of the championship.

I reckon we are seeing the start of a completely new age for county cricket. Getting overseas players to commit to a whole season is now almost impossible, especially for championship cricket.

There are players queueing up for a Twenty20 stint, and asking a lot of money to play in that, while international schedules are now so busy that the vast majority of players can only make themselves available for short periods of time.



It is a real shame for us that Stuart Clark had to pull-out of his early-season overseas player contract on fitness grounds, but I have to say that Clark was extremely honourable in the way he helped us in our assessment of his fitness.

He and Paul Farbrace are to be congratulated for the way they went about that assessment and someone less honourable than Stuart might have turned up, taken the money by playing a game or two and then pulled out.

Clark's honesty has given us the chance of bringing in another overseas bowler for the first couple of months of the season, and we do have someone in mind.

We will just have to wait and see what happens with that, and with our first championship game not until Thursday, we still have a bit of time to play with.

We also have to consider the impact of James Tredwell leaving us for a few weeks to play in the ICC World Twenty20 in the West Indies – and congratulations to him for his selection and for winning his first Test cap in Bangladesh – but we may be able to cover for that from within the existing staff.

James Hockley has been impressing with the ball as well as the bat in pre-season and another off-spin option for us is obviously Martin van Jaarsveld. Darren Stevens, too, is often as effective as a spinner in early-season conditions with his medium-pacers.

We know it will be a tough season for us, but I believe we have an excellent core strength to our squad. What all of us senior players needed to know was there is a commitment to the playing strength of the club, going forward, and we have got that.

WHAT is important, in a wider sense, is for the England and Wales Cricket Board to let everyone know as soon as possible what exactly it is we are playing for in championship cricket this summer.

Will there still be two divisions in operation in 2011, or will it be two or three conferences? I think we have to reduce slightly the number of championship games we play, and possibly some one-day cricket too, and perhaps it is also time for the overseas players only to play in one-day – and specifically – Twenty20 cricket.

As I say, a new era for our domestic game is just beginning, and we have to think as counties how best to nurture our own talent and how best to spend the money we have on star overseas signings. It is a serious debate that needs to be had.

Talking of 2011, I am delighted and honoured to have been awarded a benefit by the club for next year. I have never seen myself playing for any other county than Kent and my commitment to the cause remains as strong as it has ever been.

• ***Rob Key, the Kent captain and England batsman, is one of KOS Media's regular sports columnists.***



LEADING MAN: Kent skipper Rob Key is focused on getting the county off to a good start in Thursday's opener against Nottinghamshire
Pictures: ADY KERRY



DISAPPOINTMENT: Crusaders lost in the first round of the play-offs
Pictures: IGOR KUPCO

Crusaders' hopes of play-off victory ended by Giants

CHAIRMAN Jesse Sazant promised Medway Park Crusaders would bounce back bigger and better next season after their dream of reaching the English Basketball League Division 2 play-off semi-finals ended last week.

The Crusaders went down 84-67 away to Mansfield Giants in the first round last weekend, but despite the disappointment, Sazant remained upbeat and disclosed that moves were already under way to strengthen the squad, well in advance of the new season, which starts in September.

Crusaders play at Medway Park, formerly the Black Lion Leisure Centre, and Sazant described the venue as a big carrot to dangle in attracting new players.

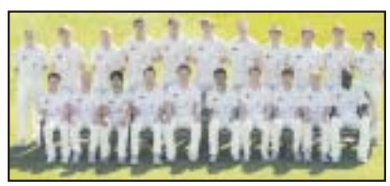
He said: "There are few purpose-built basketball courts in the UK. Medway Park boasts one of the best and that's a huge incentive in getting players to come here.

"The facilities are second to none. It also helps Medway is close to London, so there is no problem getting players down from that area.

"We're disappointed to have lost but we're looking at the broader picture and believe we have a bright future. The business of squad strengthening has started already."

Sazant praised the work of coach James Vear who turned the season around after Crusaders started the campaign with six straight defeats.

"He's done a tremendous job when you consider our poor start to the season," Sazant said. "If someone had asked then if we would settle for finishing sixth and reaching the play-offs, we would have taken it."



Picture: ADY KERRY

NEW LOOK: Kent squad in their new whites

Kent sign kit deal with Demelza

KENT have agreed to use Demelza Hospice Care for Children as their shirt sponsors for the next two seasons, rather than a commercial deal.

The county came up with the sponsorship agreement after developing a strong relationship with the Sittingbourne-based charity over the past year. While Kent will be without a commercial sponsor for their championship shirts, they have secured a four-year deal with brewers Shepherd Neame who will appear on the Friends Provident t20 kit.

New Kent chief executive, Jamie Clifford, says the deal with Demelza House will open doors.

"Through the partnership Kent have secured the value of the championship naming rights, and I am confident it will open up many more commercial opportunities in the future," he said. "I believe this goes further than a traditional sponsorship deal, and expresses something of what a special club Kent is."

It's a Shaw thing for teen seamer

KENT have bolstered their seam department with the signing of teenage bowler Ashley Shaw.

The 18-year-old has signed on a two-year deal after impressing in a trial at St Lawrence this week.

The left-arm seamer is unlikely to feature at the start of the season having played age group cricket for Cheshire, but the club are hopeful he will be one for the future.

Head coach Paul Farbrace said: "Ashley is an exciting prospect. He has a good work ethic and wants to improve as a cricketer. He did well in a recent trial and we are keen to work with him and hopefully enhance his game."

The county also extended the contract of dependable seamer Simon Cook this week.

The 33-year-old signed until the end of the 2011 season after showing his worth in all competitions last year.

Farbrace added: "Securing the services of an experienced player like Simon is great news for the club.

"He is a quality bowler and is fast becoming Kent's mister reliable. We are all very pleased he has extended his stay."

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ISSN 1749-509-1
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Picture: IGOR KUPCO



FINAL SHOT AT WORLD CUP GLORY

British women well-placed to make grandstand finish at four-day event held in Kent

THE Modern Pentathlon World Cup at Kent's Medway Park draws to a close today with every chance of home success in the final round of the women's competition.

Tickets to watch some of the best multi-sport athletes in the world at the revamped facility in Gillingham were sold out several weeks ago for the four-day event, which started on Thursday.

Britain's women have an excellent record in Olympic competition and they have several athletes who could contest a place on the podium this evening.

Jan Bartu, performance director at Pentathlon GB, is confident there will be a strong British contingent contending for the top places.

He said: "We've had seven girls in the final the last time we hosted a World Cup event and I think we're in a position to do that.

"I'd be very happy if we got that number coming through the semi-finals."

• ***Turn to page 94 for a picture special from the event and a look at its significance for the sport, both locally and at an elite level ahead of the London Olympics in 2012.***

Picture: ADY KERRY



REALITY CHECK: Deal's Karen Stupples

Last round collapse is the spur Karen needed

KAREN Stupples believes she has the game to win another of golf's major tournaments despite a disastrous collapse in the final round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship last weekend, ***writes David Pritchard***.

The 36-year-old played superbly in California to lead by one shot heading into the final round. But delight turned to despair as three double bogeys scuppered the Deal-born golfer's chances.

She eventually finished in a share of fifth place, nine shots behind winner Yani Tseng.

Although it was a disappointing end to the weekend, Stupples, speaking from her home in Florida, felt there were a lot of positives to take from the tournament.

She said: "The stupid thing is it was pretty flawless for the first three days. I don't think I've ever struck the ball quite as solidly as those rounds.

What I'm trying to do is focus more on that than what happened on Sunday [the final day]. Obviously it was a bit shaky and I would've liked to have had a better result, but I didn't.

"Still, tied fifth at the Kraft Nabisco is my best finish there yet and I think it shows good promise for the rest of the year."

The tournament at the Mission Hills Country Club was the closest Stupples had come to winning a major since lifting the British Open in 2004.

Becoming a multiple major winner would elevate her to an exclusive club and just being in contention convinced the world number 50 it is a real possibility.

She said: "I think it's made me want it more. It's opened my eyes to the possibility that I could do it again. You'd like to believe you can, but you never really know until you're in that position.

"Now I know and there should be nothing holding me back from doing it again. All I have to do is work and put in the time and effort."